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# OUTLOOKS

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**Co-Publisher/ VP Advertising** ..... Doug McDougall

**Editor** ..... David Crosson

**Associate Editor** ..... Bill Brooks

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**Photography** ..... Simon Burroughs
Dan Kozma for KOZ Photography

**Sales** ..... *Vancouver:* Michelle Clancey
*Calgary:* Terry Morgan
*Edmonton:* Philip Thomarat
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**Distribution** ..... DLRJ Enterprises Ltd., Calgary
Clark's Distribution, Edmonton

**Legal Counsel** ..... E. Nikolaus Homberg

**Printed by** ..... CALGARY Colorpress

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OUTLOOKS is published 12 times yearly by SuperMarketing Inc. Please send submissions or queries to the mailing address listed above. The opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the staff. *Outlooks* is not responsible for unsolicited work or photographic materials.


# WHAT'S WHERE

**Cover:** Siegfried and Roy
PHOTOGRAPHER: JIM SHELDON

page 27

## Toller Tales

Renaissance man and Canadian cultural ambassador Toller Cranston speaks with *Outlooks* about his life as an artist.

page 22

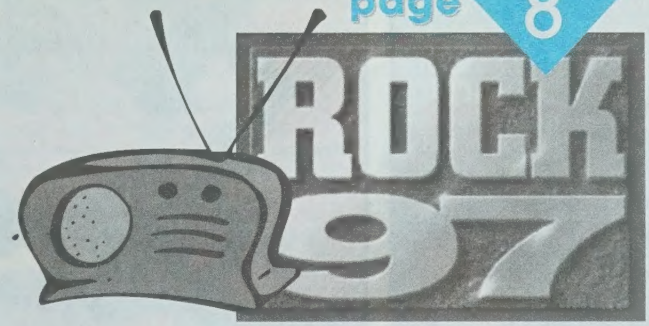
## Magical Moments

Some 'past and present' with the Vegas duo whose personal lives are as mystifying as their illusions.

## Patti Rocks!

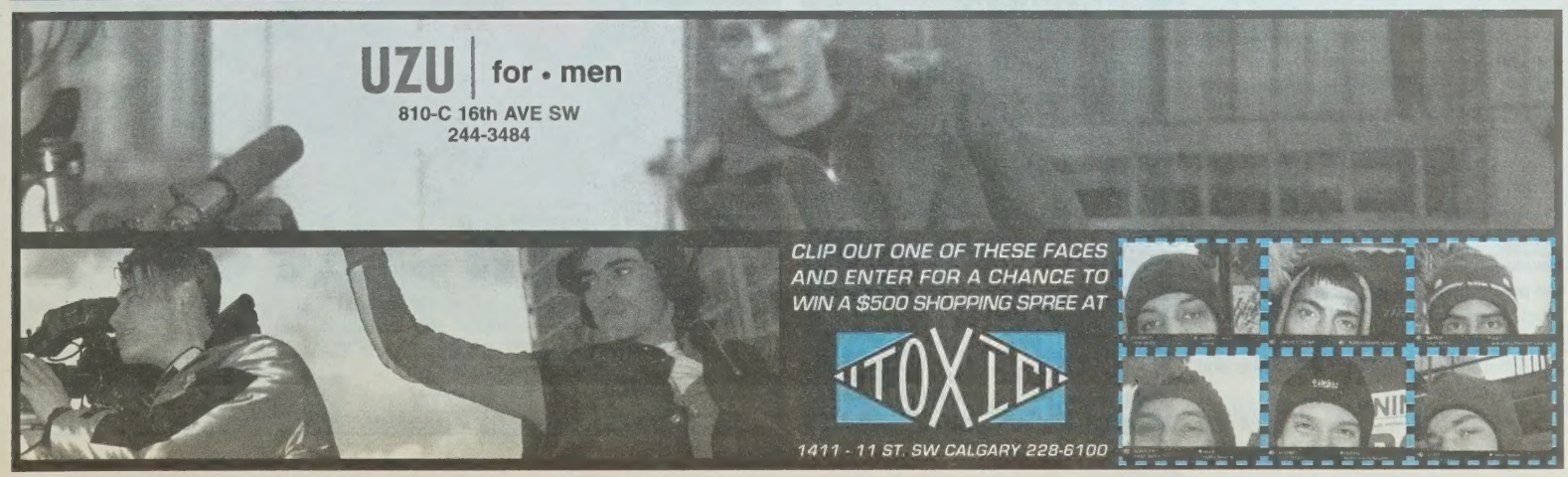
The gay community has a very vocal media friend in Rock 97's Peppermint Patti.

page 8

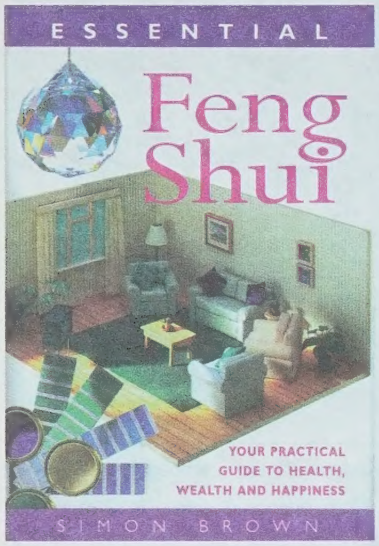


| | |
|---|---|
| Living | page 4 |
| Publisher's Column | page 5 |
| Letters to the Editor | page 6 |
| Legal Issues | page 10 |
| Issues | page 12 |
| Outpost: Toronto | page 14 |
| Outpost: Vancouver | page 16 |
| Out & About | page 20 |
| Horoscope | page 25 |
| Cartoon | page 25 |
| Media | page 28 |
| Dear Freddy | page 30 |
| Queerword | page 31 |
| Health | page 34 |
| Webutante | page 36 |
| Classifieds | page 38 |





# A functional philosophy




The '70s saw *I'm Okay; You're Okay*. The '80s, Tony Robbins' *Unlimited Power*. Now, late in the '90s, the quest for happiness seems to lie in a mishmash of Tae Bo, psychic hotlines, Pilates yoga and caffeine-free, non-fat lattés.

As the dreaded Y2K looms, we have to ask ourselves: will the key to happiness be found in a world of flat tummies and empty premonitions? Maybe not.

For some time now, particularly in larger urban centres, people have been exploring a new option for the future—one that is very much rooted in the past

Feng Shui (pronounced "fung shway") is the ancient Chinese art/science/ philosophy of studying the way life energy (ch'i) flows through our environments. For centuries it has been thought that by creating balanced and harmonious spaces in which to live and work, we may enhance the quality of our lives.

Simon Brown's *Essential Feng Shui: Your Practical Guide to Health, Wealth and Happiness* is an excellent starting point for those intrigued by the prospect of successfully fiddling with destiny. In a sea of titles (there are now entire Feng Shui subsections in the 'living' department of bookstores) Brown's volume stands out as being both attractive and practical. Where many focus on the heavy-handed philosophy of the concept (as thick and dull as calculus texts) *Essential Feng Shui* provides user-friendly and informative material geared towards real life application. Hardly a novice in the field, Brown has devoted the past eighteen years of his life to this 'pursuit of happiness' and boasts such celebrity clients as Boy George, as well as corporations like The Body Shop and British Airways.

His preferred style of analysis involves the "compass" style of Feng Shui, which pinpoints "centres" of rooms and spaces and governs placement accordingly. Brown's grid synchronizes the eight directions of space with the twelve animals of Chinese astrology, and is broken into four segments of thirty degrees and four segments of sixty degrees for maximum accuracy. This grid is then used to determine the positioning of furnishings and objects to the maximum advantage of ch'i flow. For example, a "productive" seating arrangement (conducive to communication) involves two sofas facing each other, one in the east and one in the west, with a chair in the north facing south. Other elements, such as the placement of lamps, tables, plants and decorative objects, figure prominently in the equation.

Feng Shui also focuses heavily on the five elements (tree, fire, soil, metal, water) which refine the principles of yin and yang and create a more complex balance in energy. Brown translates these elements into objects, colours, materials and patterns for practical use in the home. Most people do not have the luxury of building or renovating to the exact principles of Feng Shui advantage, and these items of decor can be used to compensate or correct negative flow of ch'i within a home or work environment.

For example, a round-leafed plant is thought to be soothing and, when placed in the north or north-west of a bedroom, promotes restful sleep.

Likewise, deeper slumber is encouraged by slowing the flow of ch'i energy out windows through heavily draped or ruched fabric treatments. Incorporate the correct colour palette and you'll be 'sawing logs' like you never have before.

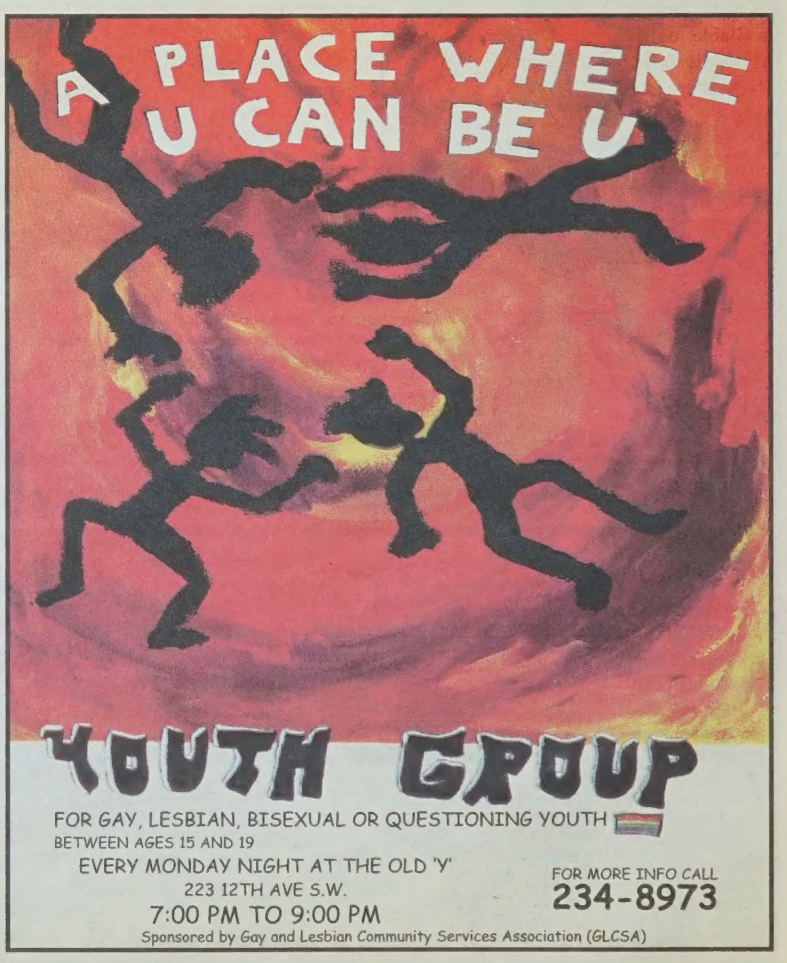
It is difficult to create a comprehensive overview of a practice that boasts a 4000-year history, and eye-rolling is a likely result of such esoteric discussion. The nicest thing about *Essential Feng Shui* is that, aside from the necessary designations and terminology, it brings everything down to a level that can be identified and absorbed. The question remains, though, once everything has been identified, absorbed and put into practice, what benefits does Feng Shui offer?

"I am the most skeptical person on the planet," says Lara Hollander, a Vancouver-based visual artist. "It may be some kind of weird placebo effect, but things have been improving—*noticeably* improving—in my life and my work since I gave this a shot."

Hollander was convinced to make some adjustments to both her living and studio space after a friend became involved with Feng Shui.

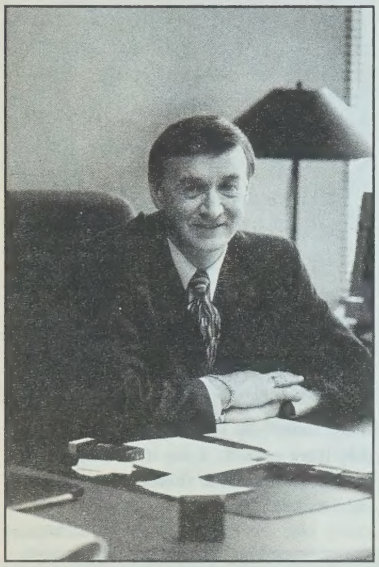
"I live in a rental place, so it's not like I was able to make major changes," Hollander says of her efforts. "But simple things like plants, fabric, bowls of water... lamps—it's all helped change the space and, for whatever reason, make things better."

If you're not inclined to go the "4000 years of snake oil" route, Feng Shui may be worth looking into. Many interior designers now offer some level of consultation in this area and books on the subject are readily available. For both beginners and the curious, Simon Brown's *Essential Feng Shui: Your Practical Guide to Health, Wealth and Happiness* is highly recommended.



# PUBLISHER'S COLUMN

# Online anniversary



**by Roy Heale**

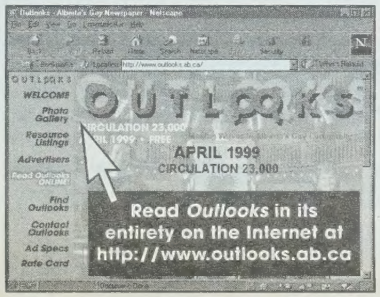
One year ago we launched the online version of *Outlooks* and made the entire newspaper available to our website visitors, including all editorial stories, advertisements, cartoons and classifieds. It is only possible for a free publication such as ours to make an entire issue available online because other papers would lose newsstand sales or paid subscribers if their publication were available free. As a result of this fact, *Outlooks* is a leader in the industry.

This proved to be a very popular move, and currently an average of 3000 readers enjoy the electronic version of the paper on a daily basis. Remarkably, only twenty percent are from Canada, with the majority of readers living all over the world.

During a recent business trip to Chicago, this became very clear to me when I struck up a conversation with a room service waiter who was going to visit Canada in the fall. When I asked what his destination in Canada was, he replied, "all over Alberta, including Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise and Jasper." As the conversation progressed, he also told me he was searching online for information and found a publication called *Outlooks* with all kinds of helpful tips for local nightlife. You can imagine his surprise when I gave him by business card! Even though my dinner was a little cold, it was worth the look on his face and the conversation which followed. Throughout North America, we are one of the few publications completely available online, and rarely do I have the opportunity to meet online readers, but when this occurs it validates the necessity of sharing information within our community. Our website services have expanded since last November and we are constantly adding new areas for the benefit of our global visitors. Our Resource Directory for Alberta is online and is one of the most popular areas within the site. As the overall use of the web continues to grow, and as the millennium approaches, we envision a greater importance for our website as a place for sharing information and spreading the word about Alberta and Canada to foreign visitors. If you have any ideas, suggestions or comments regarding our website please feel free to call Brendon Turner, our webmaster, so that we can incorporate them into our second year online.

Some other anniversaries will also be taking place throughout Alberta this month. In Calgary, Goliath's and the Texas Lounge will be twelve years old. The Other Place in Red Deer celebrates its sixth anniversary and, like our online newspaper, Secrets in Edmonton will be one year old. Take some time this month to share in their celebrations.

November is our issues issue and we have covered a wide range of topics within the gay and lesbian community in our efforts to keep our multitude of readers informed. We hope these stories will encourage everyone to think about our strengths and weaknesses as a community as we move forward into the next century.





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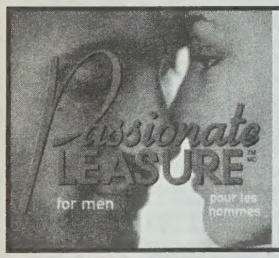


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# LETTERS

Hi! My name is Danielle and I am a TS who lives here in Calgary and I read your paper for the first time about six months ago. Ever since I have kept every single copy, and always look forward to the next issue. Whenever I have friends who are moving to Calgary you can be assured that I make a special effort to give them a copy of your paper. It has everything that one could need to make them feel welcome. Could you *please* make sure that you let all your staff know of the wonderful work they are doing.

Love, Danielle

Dear Editor,

In recent letters, Mr. Schmitz expresses concern about the "sexual" nature of advertising by Rainbow Pride Resource Centre, and the magazines and colourful video promotions seen on entering the store.

To the credit of Kevin and his staff, the videos are in a separate room, allowing renters to browse the titles free of scrutiny by other shoppers.

This also allows those shoppers who are uncomfortable with the overt sexualism of the video industry to shop in a healthy and affirming environment.

Mr. Schmitz needs to understand that by its very nature, a business serving the GLBT community will deal in images and ideas of sexuality. While being gay or lesbian is much more than just sexual expression, that is an integral part of who we are. That is why RPRC also carries a huge amount of information about other groups, businesses and agencies for southern Alberta GLBT people. As the name says, it is a resource centre. RPRC seems to know more than others that to balance the inordinate emphasis put on sex in our society in general, it is necessary to have a healthy community.

Kevin and Jason have always been eager to share information on resources available, without judgment. Bar nights, womyn's groups, Buck Naked Boys or MCC Church all get equal endorsement. As the pastor of MCC, I have always been warmly received in the store and the staff is gracious about displaying our bulletins (often next to the video ads!).

What we all strive for is a happy and healthy integration of sexuality and living. Rainbow Pride Resource Centre is to be commended for promoting just that.

Sincerely,
Rev. Michael Nicholas
Metropolitan Community Church

Dear *Outlooks*,

I saw your vampire spread in the last issue and I fell in love with the long-haired boy with the beautiful eyes. Is there any way I can get a number or get in touch with him?

J.L.P.

***The Editor responds:***

***Unfortunately, we have a strict policy of confidentiality when it comes to models for covers, centre spreads and Don't You Wish? We cannot, and do not, give out numbers or addresses, but will always pass on positive comments to the individuals concerned. By the way, that model was wearing white contacts (he does have nice eyes, mind you) and has since chopped all his hair off. —Ed.***

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to commend everybody involved in getting the OK campaign back up and running. I had the pleasure of following a car that was behind an 'OK' bus on Crowchild recently. The older couple inside, after a nudge and a point from the wife, started to chat back and forth after not looking at one another for several miles. I don't know if what they were saying was positive or negative, but at least they were talking. After all, awareness is the first step towards understanding!

Sincerely,
K. Hargreave, Calgary

Dear *Outlooks*,

I'd just like to say how refreshing it was to see a piece on cruising written from the point of view of a young man who is growing up at a time when this is not the only option for gay men to connect. I must also say that it showed remarkable courage on your part to run a piece that could be considered "unsavoury" by any straight readers who may have seen it. Like it or not, it's part of our culture and shying away from it only makes it worse.

Sincerely, S. Munro

***We want your letters.*** Sign your name and include your address and phone number. All letters are subject to editing—and please, no more than 400 words. Write to: ***Outlooks*, Box 439, Suite 100, 1039 17th Ave. SW, Calgary AB T2T 0B2** or email **outlooks@cadvision.com**


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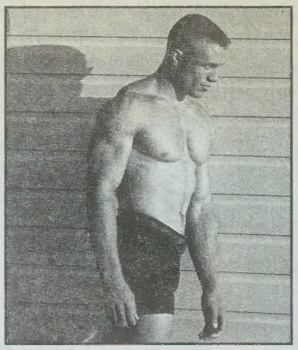

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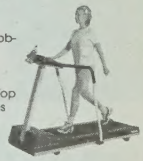

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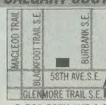

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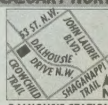

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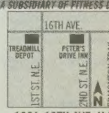

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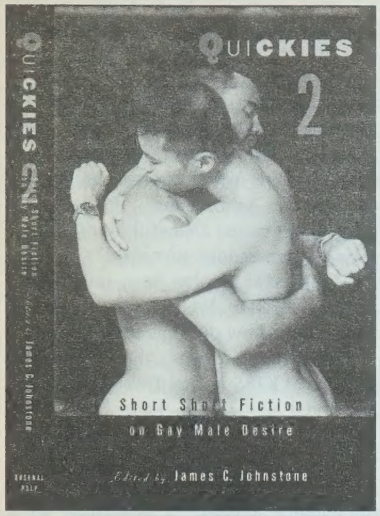
# Small stories; big desire




If you're a fan of quickies, then you'll want to mark November 14th down on your social calendar. *Quickies 2*, the second volume to the wildly successful *Quickies* released two years ago by Arsenal Pulp Press, is set to make its debut at Arena in Calgary, starting at 7 p.m.

This edition will feature "sixty-nine plus one" pieces of "short-short" fiction (1000 words or less) submitted from seven countries around the world.

"Australia, Canada, Ireland, Germany, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States are all represented in the book," says editor James Johnstone. "We also have a great contribution from Alberta writers—Darrin Hagen from Edmonton, Joey Sayer and Doug Ferguson from Calgary, and a gentleman from Brooks writing under the pseudonym J.O. Dickingson."

*Quickies 2*, like the previous release, sets itself aside from other erotic fiction not only by the length of its stories, but by the nature of them as well.

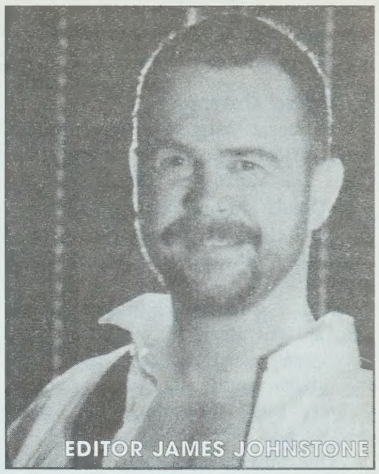
"The book is about gay male desire—it's not your standard erotica or porn-lit book," Johnstone emphasizes. "It's about sex, it's about desire. But it runs the gamut from fantasies to 'connections'. There are sexy stories, funny stories, sad stories; there's something for everybody."

If this edition is anything like the first, it is bound to become a must-have for any home library.

"The first one received a glowing review from Amazon.com and we were on the bestseller lists in gay bookstores in the United States," Johnstone says. "We even made *The Advocate* bestseller list this past May."

## IN THE NEWS

As part of the Calgary launch, several contributors will be on hand to perform readings of their work from the book. Confirmed at press time were: Doug Ferguson (Calgary); Gary Probe (Lethbridge via Vancouver); Michael V. Smith (Vancouver); Joey Sayer (Vancouver); J.O. Dickingson (Brooks). Other potential readers included Darrin Hagen (Edmonton), Jeff Kirby (Toronto) and Wes Hartley (Nelson). Be sure to get out and support this "desirable" literary event.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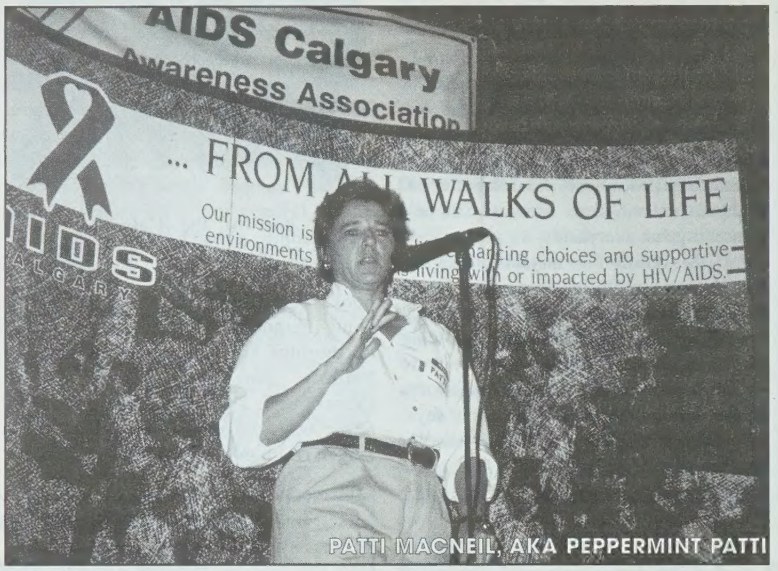
# An enlightened ally

*by David Crosson*

In recent years, with the influx of head offices transferring people from cities like Vancouver and Toronto, the social landscape of Calgary has changed. Although the city has never been as *intensely* redneck as it is portrayed elsewhere in Canada, it has had its moments. And, thanks to new arrivals who are not afraid to speak out when ugly issues raise their little heads (think: fag jokes around the water cooler), Calgary is becoming a more 'enlightened' place to be.

One individual who stands out in this regard is Patti MacNeil—AKA Peppermint Patti of the new Rock 97, formerly KISS FM—who relocated here from Montréal four years ago.

Over coffee one afternoon, MacNeil sat down with *Outlooks* to share her thoughts on gay issues, ignorance, and a tale of two cities.



PATTI MACNEIL, AKA PEPPERMINT PATTI

**Outlooks:** Why did you become a broadcaster?

**MacNeil:** It was completely accidental! In the summer of 1981 I ended up as the receptionist at a rock radio station in Montréal called CHOM—I had listened to it a lot growing up. It was just going to be a summer gig and just about the time I was getting ready to leave, the program director thought "Let's throw her on the air—I don't have to pay her and maybe we can do something with her because she's a mouth and she's boisterous, et cetera." And I said "thanks, but no thanks"—he still convinced me to give it a 'go', and I was *awful*. Still, one thing led to another, as they say, and now it's twenty years later.

**Outlooks:** You're a recent transplant here; how are you finding life in Calgary?

**MacNeil:** Having come from the political situation in Quebec—which, for some, is completely tolerable and for me wasn't anymore—and knowing that if and when the radio thing ended in Montréal I would be really stuck between a rock and a hard place without being fluently bilingual, it made sense. I'm a huge advocate of changing your surroundings as often as you can when life dictates—I mean, if things are going well and there's no need to run away, then you don't. But if you can stomach a change then it seems like a good thing to do. My husband and I had just gotten married—and he's fluently bilingual but was finding the job situation tough—so we thought "where should we go?" The next day I saw that *Maclean's* issue with Calgary on the front—the one that said that the streets were paved with gold—and we decided to give it three months. If the work thing didn't pan out, then we'd move on. True to form, I'm obsessive, and I did a lot of research and found out that, apart from the fact that it was one of the fastest growing cities in Canada economically, it was young, it had a single tax, it was closer to my folks who live in B.C.... it was all things 'good'. Calgary couldn't help but be wonderful for me at that time. I smile—I can be brought to tears, actually—by the things around me that I love in this town. There isn't an evening sky that doesn't make me stop and catch my breath. There isn't a person I meet on a daily basis that I can't believe could be so kind to a stranger. We've made great friends in a short period of time, we have a beautiful home that looks at mountains that we could never afford anywhere else in this country. I love my job; my husband loves his. We feel really settled—it was one of the best moves we probably could have made.

People ask me if I've met "rednecks" and I don't think so... So what does that make me—a redneck? No. No matter what town you live in you have a group of people who are known worldwide—whether they should be or not—for something they do or don't do. Every place has its "supposed" bane, but I don't think I've seen that here.

**Outlooks:** You're very involved with AIDS Walk—how did that come about?

**MacNeil:** That happened through a young man named Ron Fahra—who's no longer with us—who was HIV positive and was in a situation in life that allowed him to put together a foundation, one that would help people like himself. And he wanted to make sure that when he was gone, the foundation would continue. I met him initially when he was organizing a fundraiser, at a time when he was putting together people from all walks of life—media, medicine, the clothing industry—anybody who knew lots of other people who had great ideas. A friend suggested that I come along and when I met Ron I was totally engaged by him. He was a fabulous, warm, compassionate, completely driven guy who made sure that everyone around him operated on the same level. What came from all this was something called The Rockin' Ribbon, and I decided that the best way to get free publicity was to involve the media competitively. So we set up a scavenger hunt that would hopefully educate as well as entertain. They were put together in teams of French and English, media and print—you get the picture—and sent out to find things like an AZT pill, a doctor, something very Montréal like a bagel... And once they had everything, after an allotted amount of time, they wound up at a music venue for a free April Wine concert. The greatest thing was that people in the media started challenging one another beforehand. It got great press and it raised an awful lot of money. It was a tremendous success.

**Outlooks:** You've been involved in Calgary's AIDS Walk for a couple of years now—how did that come about?

**MacNeil:** I was the promotion director at KISS before I went on the air, and the Event Group had asked if we would be the radio sponsor, along with 66CFR. And it being my only cause—which is not to say that I don't have a tremendous amount of sympathy for a number of things, but it's the one that *always* gets my attention and whatever spare money I have on me will always go to AIDS awareness. We backed it, we had fun with it, we were absolutely proud to be a part of it. We were there in '98 and we were happy to be back again this year.

**Outlooks:** What do you think is the biggest contributing factor to homophobia?

**MacNeil:** Absolutely baseless fear of the unknown. I don't understand homophobia. I don't understand not liking someone because of the colour of their skin or, in this discussion, their sexual preference. I don't know what makes people homophobic—I really don't. It's not anything that makes any sense to me and if I encounter it when I'm helping out the cause, it angers me. I don't know how to deal with it because I can't equate it anywhere in my life.

**Outlooks:** There's no reference point?

**MacNeil:** Absolutely there's no reference point! When I was brought up, my parents always said to me "Listen,

continued on page 9

continued from page 8

your life is going to be measured in the end on whether or not you were a good person—that's what it comes down to. It's not fame, it's not things; what you own, what you make—it's how you behaved as a human being." And that kind of teaching in the home can't come with any caveats. It can't be "That's the way we want you to live your life except for dealing with this type of person or that type of person." What scares me more is ignorance—I'm much more fearful of people's complete unawareness of things than I am of the fact that they want to sleep with someone of the same sex or if their skin is a different colour than mine. To me that's senseless.

**Outlooks:** If ignorance is the drop in the bucket, then the ripples involve some very serious repercussions.

**MacNeil:** That's just it! It's the ripples that I find most amazing. I don't have any examples for you based on discussions of sexuality, but I look at kids I grew up with whose parents were prejudiced one way or another, and I see what it did to them and how it put their thinking askew—in my mind and in any "right" thinking person's mind. How far do these ripples go now? When is the chain broken? It seems to me an insurmountable quest for anyone who is gay or black or Jewish—or whatever it is that people around them don't seem to like—how to get up every morning. How do you get out of bed knowing that people hate you for absolutely no reason at all? I can't even begin to imagine what it would be like to live like that. I think of myself as a fairly strong person but if I had to get up every morning and know that people I didn't even know had an opinion about me, because of something that was none of their business, I don't know how I'd get through life without being angry all day long.

**Outlooks:** Let's go through the list: short hair, trousers, opinions—how many times has it been assumed that you're a lesbian?

**MacNeil:** [Laughs.] Oh, my God! Yes! You missed something: I own a lot of plaid shirts! Apparently these are all *true, absolute* indicators of my sexuality—which I find most amazing. I've been "accused", for lack of a better word, many, many times. I've asked people "Why do you think that?" And they say "You have short hair." Really! How can they be so insightful? And this goes back to ignorance. I mean, the whole notion that someone can look at someone's haircut and go "Oooh—she must want to sleep with women." A lot of people ask me and, what can I tell you? I'm happily married and I'm not gay. But if I was gay, I'd be damned proud of it. Just like I'm proud of being happily married. Love is love and it shouldn't matter if it's between someone of the same sex or someone of the opposite sex.

**Outlooks:** It shouldn't be an issue.

**MacNeil:** It *isn't* an issue until someone makes it one. I heard somebody here say to me once—okay, I did meet a bit of an "archaic" thinker—somebody in Calgary was spouting off about the show *Will & Grace* and used the word "faggot." Now, faggot is a word that I've not heard in a dozen years—and I find it totally offensive—and this guy was going on about "*Those* people want to adopt kids" and "*Those* people want to get married." So I asked him if he thought it was not a good thing for a child who comes from no home at all to be adopted into a loving, same-sex parent household. And he responded "no." And I said, "So, by your thinking, it's better for a child to be with a man and a woman who fight constantly and drink and spend the food money on something other than food than it is to be with two men or two women who love each other and run a happy, healthy home?" And he said "Absolutely." Can you somehow explain *that* to me? It makes no sense whatsoever. Again—there's no reference point.

**Outlooks:** I've heard this before and I love it—would you mind sharing the Club Med story with me one more time?

**MacNeil:** Oh, sure! [Laughs.] The height of ignorance was displayed to me when I was in Club Med in Mexico a few years ago with a friend of mine—a girl! So, of course, it was a lesbian retreat! [Laughs.] Dawn and I were arriving at the club, and heading off to the airport to leave the island were all these unbelievably beautiful men. And I turned to Dawn and said "Boy did we pick the wrong week!" If you looked at the planeload we came in with there was nothing that compared. As all the guys were filtering out we realized that there were no girls and figured out that it was a gay Club Med package for the last week. Well, obviously, this information got around and landed on some very ignorant ears. I was at the front desk buying postcards and beads to drink with, I guess, and I heard a woman chewing out the little girl at the front desk who obviously had to smile and wasn't allowed to say a word. And I heard this woman say "I want new sheets. I want to see them come out of their packages—don't launder stuff and try to put one over on me. They have to be bought from a store. I want my shower scrubbed and disinfected. I want the pool emptied and disinfected." Well, it didn't take me long to figure out what I was standing beside. And I turned to her and said, "Well, aren't you the height of ignorance?" And she told me to mind my own business. Then I said "You *are* my business when you are standing this close to me, because the thing you are so afraid of catching isn't *nearly* as contagious as the stupidity that's wafting off you!" Once again, she told me to mind my own business and I said "I will, as long as you don't tell me that you want us to empty the ocean and vacuum the floor as well." We both turned on our heel and, needless to say, she didn't make eye contact with me the rest of the week. But that buzzed through the club and I didn't have to pay for a Coca-Cola the whole trip! I felt for that girl behind the desk, because it must be *so* frustrating to not be able to talk back. To say to people "Bang your head against the wall! What is wrong with you?!" It still amazes me that people can be *that* stupid. But I suppose they're not reading *Outlooks* so I guess I'm not making much headway!

**Outlooks:** Is there anything else you want to add?

**MacNeil:** I was absolutely—as I said earlier—*nothing* but proud to be involved with the AIDS Walk last year and this year. It was nice to see more bodies out and that the monies collected were an increase over last year. I mean, I come from a town where thousands and thousands come out to walk. I know this is a smaller town and that there are fewer AIDS-related deaths than in Montréal or Toronto or Vancouver. With all that in mind I can see why it's a smaller turnout. It also strikes me that it is a case of fear, a subject that a lot of people don't want to talk about, learn about. I understand that AIDS Calgary has an undeniably long, arduous climb ahead of it. And my hat goes off to everybody who is making it a success and helping to make it a bigger success year after year. I'm still saddened to know that there are still people who turn a blind eye, turn an ignorant ear and, hopefully over time, that will change. I really want to be here to see the day when Calgary comes out by the thousands and that it's not a taboo subject anymore.

***As of November 1st, Peppermint Patti can be heard on the new Rock 97, formerly KISS FM.***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# Unfair advantages

*by Darryl A. Aarbo*

The Alberta government recently passed the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*, a legislation that enables the police to offer greater protection than ever before to the victims of family violence. It is designed to offer immediate protection on a twenty-four hour basis and now, in as little as twenty minutes at any time of the day or night, an Emergency Protection Order (EPO) can be sought from a justice of the peace.

The EPO can order the removal of an aggressor from the family home, restrain any contact between family members, or any other action considered necessary for the immediate protection of a victim. In short, the police have been given a lot more powers to protect the victims of domestic violence. Also, the police have been getting more comprehensive and extensive training to deal with victims than ever before.

This act is a very important tool in the protection of the victims of domestic violence, but it only applies if the two people are of the opposite sex. It does *not* protect a person who is being abused by his or her same-sex partner. The protections of the act, and the extra powers of the police, have been cut off at the point of allowing the police to assist in a same-sex domestic situations. In other words, the police cannot use this legislation in incidents of same-sex domestic violence.

The failure to protect homosexuals can only be considered as intentional by the government of Alberta. Human rights lawyers have been hammering away at the province's failure to protect homosexuals for years, as the definition used in this legislation conspicuously avoids any language that could possibly be used to include same-sex couples. In fact, their own "question and answer" booklet states that same-sex couples are not covered, yet indicates that the issue is "currently under review". The Alberta Law Reform Institute originally recommended language that would have included homosexuals. Nevertheless, the government has once again chosen to ignore the recommendations of its own committees in favour of a right-wing, political-religious agenda.

Victims of a same-sex abusive situation do have some protections under the law, but they are more limited, expensive and time consuming. Immediate protection is only available from the police if a crime has already occurred or is in progress. If a crime has been committed, the police can arrest the person responsible. The problem, of course, is that the police have to wait until it's too late, when injury may have already been inflicted. They cannot forcibly remove a person from his or her own home if a crime has not yet been committed. They can separate the two individuals for a short period of time, but it is very difficult to keep them separate or exclude the aggressor from the home.

Protection for the victim of same-sex domestic abuse can be sought through a Restraining Order from the court, but only during regular court hours. In other words, protection cannot be sought in the evenings or weekends when violence often occurs. A restraining order can be obtained without the aggressor being given advance warning, but it usually necessitates having a lawyer involved, as a court appearance is required before a superior court judge. Further, to get a restraining order there must be a civil action alleging assaults or threats or as part of a divorce. Mere harassment is not sufficient to get an order.

This document is also relatively limited: it simply restrains one party from having contact with another. An EPO, on the other hand, can be much broader in scope and can be used to remove a person from his or her own property and then impose restraints on contact. It can also be used to allow the police to enter the victims's home to retrieve belongings so that he or she can go to a friend's home or a shelter until other legal solutions can be sought. There are many options to consider under an EPO, but only one under the restraining order.

Further, if a same-sex couple owns their own home it is extremely unlikely that a judge will order one person removed from their own property if ownership or partial ownership is a factor. In other words, if the aggressor owns part of the property, there are very few legal ways to effectively remove them from the home because of a domestic conflict.

A person can only be removed from their own property as a result of an EPO or Matrimonial Possession Order (MPO), both of which are only available to married individuals and not effective for a same-sex couple.

An aggressor can also be removed, of course, if he or she commits a crime severe enough be arrested and detained by the police. Nevertheless, even in *this* situation the aggressor can always return home once released. This is a very serious problem because people who are arrested for assault are generally not held in jail for a long period of time (if at all). They will usually be released pending their trial, during which time they can return to their home and continue with the abusive behavior.

It is also possible for a victim of same-sex domestic violence to get a Peace Bond in certain circumstances. The peace bond takes place in criminal court and it is granted by a provincial court judge where grounds exist to believe an individual will cause injury to, or damage the property of, another person. This also applies in cases where concern exists that the individual will injure the spouse or child of another person. Although a peace bond can be obtained under the Criminal Code, it can take a long time. Again, it is extremely unlikely that the court will prevent a person from returning home. It is the victim that will have to leave.

A possible long-term solution for the same-sex victim, if he or she owns part of the property, is to make an application to court for an order terminating co-ownership. This will allow the person to sell the property and take their share of the money, a route that is both expensive and time consuming.

As well, if the victim does not have their name on title, it is extremely difficult to claim any ownership of that property. One would have to demonstrate a Constructive Trust. This is a very complex legal remedy that requires a lot of time and money.

The victims of same-sex domestic violence also do not have the benefit of spousal support in Alberta. Nevertheless, in another new piece of legislation, the government allows heterosexual common-law partners to seek spousal support. Thus, in an abusive situation, a heterosexual victim can often seek spousal support from their ex-partner and start a new life. Same-sex couples are also excluded from this new legislation. The heterosexual victim also has the option to have the money paid directly to the government sponsored Maintenance Enforcement Program. Therefore, there is no contact between the victim and the person paying support. The location of the victim is also kept strictly confidential.

It may soon be possible for same-sex couples to seek support from their former partners. Due to a recent Supreme Court of Canada ruling out of Ontario, Alberta's position on this issue is open to attack. Nevertheless, a court challenge against the Alberta's legislation governing spousal support would have to undertaken. It is doubtful that the government of Alberta will offer same-sex rights voluntarily. Again, a court challenge would be a long and expensive process.

The law is also unfair to same-sex couples with respect to guardianship, custody and access. If a couple separates on unhappy terms, it is unlikely that the non-biological parent will be able to gain guardianship or custody. Access is possible, but if the biological parent objects it would require going to court. If possible, the non-biological parent should seek custody and guardianship when the relationship is operating well and the biological parent is prepared to consent to joint custody and guardianship.

At the date of writing this article, same-sex step-parent adoptions are not legal in Alberta; however, a decision on this is expected any day. If allowed, and the non-biological parent adopts his or her partner's child, upon the break down of the relationship he or she will be in a better position to seek custody and access.

In sum, the options available to same-sex couples living in an abusive environment are much more limited and require more time and money.

***Darryl Aarbo is a lawyer at Courtney Sebree. For information on these and other issues affecting the gay, lesbian and bisexual community please call 571-5120.***

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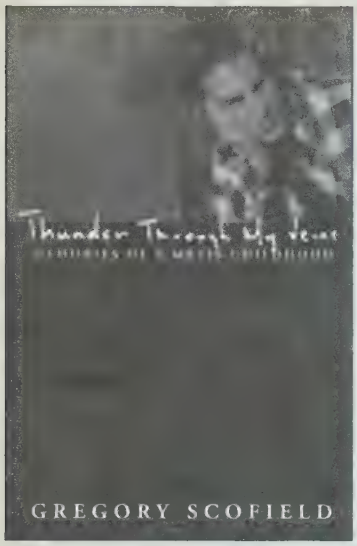
# BOOKS




Despite the relatively small scope of gay-themed material published in the market place, the fact remains that it's still not hard to find books on the trials and tribulations of self-discovery and coming out. Add to that mix a few cultural issues—as opposed to subcultural—and you have a whole new genre of self-expression.

In Gregory Scofield's *Thunder Through My Veins: Memories of a Metis Childhood* the issues surrounding his native heritage are further complicated by the fact that he is gay. The book, a departure from the poetry for which he is best known (Scofield is a past recipient of the Dorethy Livesay poetry prize and author of four poetry books), is an eloquent recollection of a painful childhood and an adolescence marked by confusion and loneliness. *Outlooks* spoke with Scofield recently about his venture into prose and the life experiences that took him there.

**Outlooks:** Was writing this book a cathartic experience for you?

**Scofield:** It was very much a completion of a process—things that I had gone through writing my poetry. It was time to be able to tell my story via the prose, to tell the entire story. You have things like metaphor and imagery to hide behind in poetry. This is much more detailed. I knew writing this memoir would be an eventuality, I just didn't know when I would do it. Before even writing my poetry I knew that I wanted to tell my story, but I didn't feel that I had the skill or the confidence to do it at that time.

**Outlooks:** Do you identify more with gay culture or first nations culture?

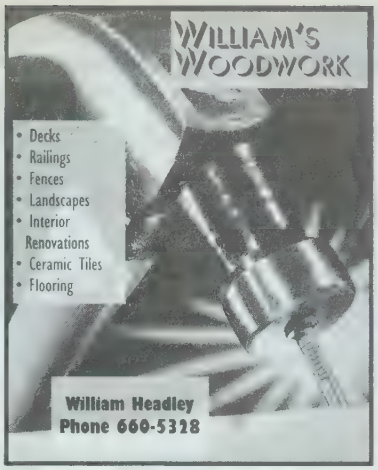
**Scofield:** I have a very hard time dividing myself into sections. When I was younger, it was very much a matter of being native or white—now I see myself that way in the gay community. I see myself as a gay man and it's been a process of searching and belonging to that, just as it was being Metis. In terms of identity I guess what I am is a gay Metis man.

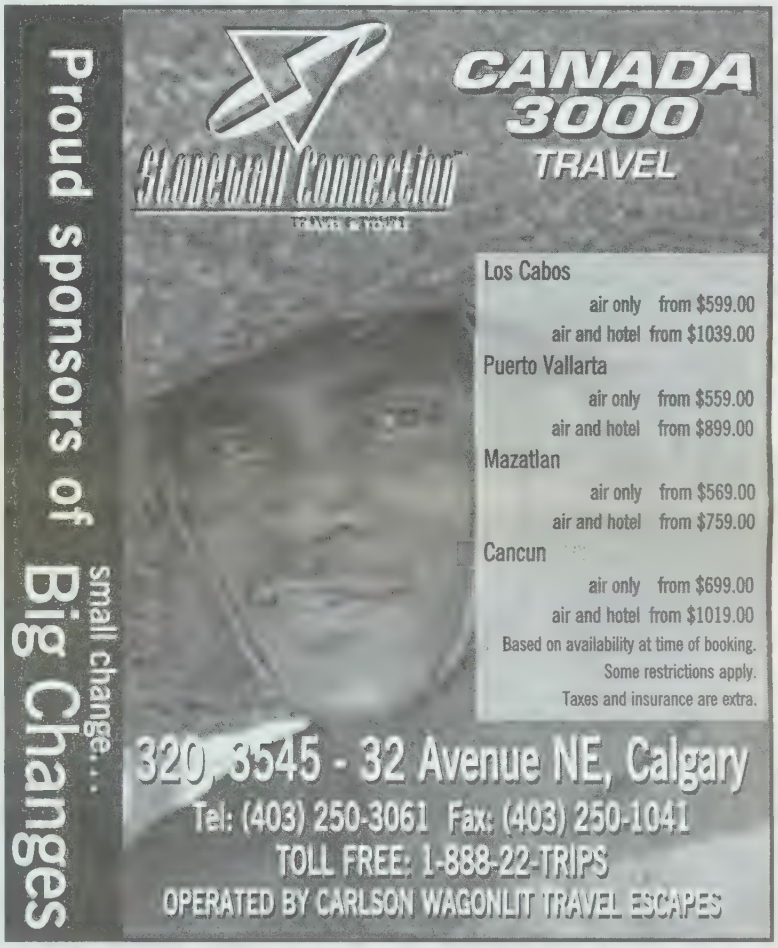
**Outlooks:** Was coming out a big obstacle for you?

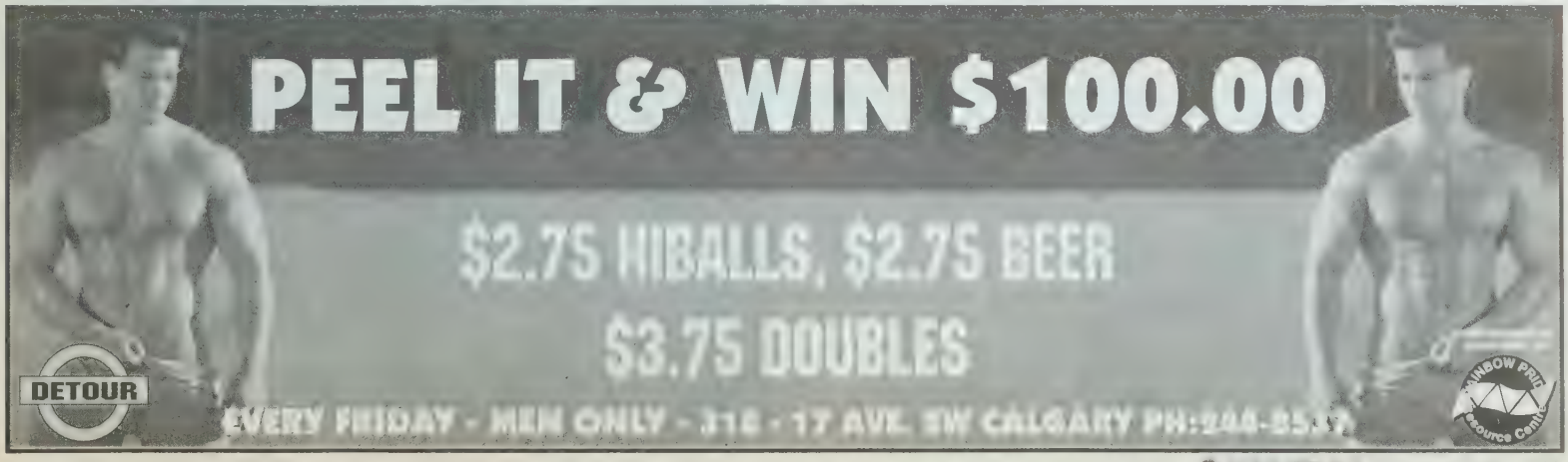
**Scofield:** I think there is a lot of homophobia within the native community. Of course that's not traditional homophobia—this is homophobia based on that colonized Christianity perspective. I think with the residential schools and the colonization that's happened attitudes have been adopted. I've worked with gay, native urban people and people who have been HIV+ and dying of AIDS. And those people have not been able to go back to their home communities; they've been essentially left to die alone in the city. That was one of the reasons I decided to sit down and write the book at this time. I really wanted to offer some of that understanding to the native community. I wanted to share my personal issues on being gay and how much that has impacted me.

**Outlooks:** Do you feel a need, or even pressure, to be a role model of sorts?

**Scofield:** It's not so much feeling pressure... But the native writing community, like any writing community of colour, is not necessarily a large one. So when you are writing from a certain community, to a large degree whether you like it or not, you become a spokesperson. You gain visibility and people almost see you as speaking on behalf of the community. It's like being an ambassador in a way. I try to shun that whole thing because I consider myself one small voice in a community of singers. I always maintain that because I'm not speaking on behalf of anyone—it's all a part of my experiences in two communities.



# Shameful statistics

*by Terry Belleville*

Concepts are wonderfully insulating things. They allow us to consort with monsters and yet never really get our hands dirty. They are, after all, just concepts. Realities are different beasts. The veils of abstraction lift. The features define. We stare them in the eye. Plot our responses.

The concept of domestic violence is appalling; the reality abhorrent.

We, as a society, are only now beginning to stare it in the eye and plot our response. Yet, there is one dimension of this socially crippling problem that has been largely overlooked or completely ignored. It is the subject of domestic violence inside same-sex relationships.

It is a reality. Yet in the mind and eye of the public, it is barely a concept.

Almost six years ago, the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter recruited me as a filmmaker to help people who had either abused or been abused tell their stories. Now, five productions and countless interviews later, I am a little wiser and a lot more committed to raising awareness.

What I am about to share are some of the things I have seen, heard or learned. They represent a very small increment in the passage from abstraction through concept into reality.

If there is one thing I now know, it is that it's all about choice. Once you grasp the concept you are empowered with choice, you can begin to realize options. And options unlock doors.

The journey from victim to survivor, however, can be brutal.

*Woman:* "The abuse lasted over three years. I've suffered many, many broken bones over that time. Lacerations and bruises became a way of life. I can't remember a day when a piece of me wasn't chipped away. That was the hardest part. I lost my will, my heart, my soul."

The voices I quote are from people I have met who have perpetrated or survived abuse within same sex relationships.

*Man:* "I just felt ashamed. Ashamed of what was happening to me. Ashamed of who I was. Ashamed that I couldn't seem to control my own life any more."

The stories are classic, models of those told to me previously by men and woman in heterosexual relationships. The huge difference here is that these are survivors of gay and lesbian violence.

Many people are surprised, shocked and sometimes openly hostile to the concept of same-sex domestic abuse. For the majority of people in straight relationships, it is something that they never even considered. Some intelligent, articulate people interviewed elected to dismiss the issue because they "just didn't want to think about it".

Some couples inside gay and lesbian communities consider their relationships not just equal to heterosexual relationships, but better. They are personal paths carefully chosen to find true love and happiness; violence and abuse don't resonate well in those scenarios.

Domestic violence is not a product of sexual orientation and preference: it is a universal problem and we all have the same propensity to inflict it.

One very serious issue at this time is the apparent inability or gross reluctance of all communities—gay and straight—to confront the problem and instigate the necessary support for both those who both suffer abuse and perpetrate abuse. The longer that it remains a secret, the more rampant the malignancy, the more diminished the survival rate.

Dealing with it isn't easy for anyone. Inside gay and lesbian relationships, there can be a litany of compounding social pressures and the resulting isolation can be even more devastating.

*Man:* You say, I fell or I tripped or I got into a fight with some guys. You don't say, I'm gay and I'm getting the crap beaten out of me by my partner. Not if you want to survive.

What is the incidence of domestic violence inside same-sex relationships and how does it differ from 'straight' relationships? This seems to be the first question that is asked.

There are many different suppositions among the general public: gays will be more violent—it's part of their culture; lesbians will be less violent—women are like that. When the question arose as to whether there was more violence among gays or lesbians, one gay man quipped "It's got to be lesbians—they have more power tools."

At this time, all studies indicate that the numbers are pretty even on all counts. Abuse occurs at approximately the same rate inside gay and lesbian relationships and approximately one in four straight, gay and lesbian relationships are abusive.

According to Statistics Canada's 1993 study, the incidence of abuse was almost one-third of *all* relationships. There are no mechanisms in place right now to get inside those statistics to identify the percentage of same-sex situations. Indeed, there is a dearth of any reliable statistics of that nature in Canada, so we currently need to rely on U.S. data. That could change.

Janice Ristock, Associate Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Manitoba, is spending her sabbatical conducting a cross-national study about same-sex domestic abuse among lesbian and bisexual women. It promises to deliver the most defining Canadian statistics to date.

In the meantime, let's look south of the border. The 1986 Brand and Kidd study reported that twenty-five percent of lesbians reported physical abuse from a partner compared to twenty-seven percent of heterosexual women. The numbers among gay and bisexual men are almost the same. A 1995 survey found that over twenty-five percent of all respondents reported that their partners had used physical aggression toward them during conflict. That was *just* physical aggression, and didn't consider emotional or verbal abuse. One wild aberration was a Los Angeles study among the gay community in that area. It reported a sixty-eight percent incidence of physical violence. Even if we elect to exclude this anomaly from the equation, the fact remains there is a grave problem that must be addressed.

In some quarters in the United States, domestic abuse is now ranked the third largest health risk for gay and bisexual men in that country, close behind AIDS and substance abuse.

How prevalent is the problem in Canada? Noted Calgary counsellor Jane Oxenbury puts it into perspective: "Just to get a rough idea, let's start with the ten percent of the adult population that is gay or lesbian. Let's say half are in relationships. If only twenty five percent of those relationships are abusive, that's well over 10,000 people in Calgary alone, and over a quarter of a million people in Canada who are trapped in abusive same-sex relationships."

With regard to the nature of abuse, there were two studies conducted in the United States in '92 and '96. Both reported that victims in same-sex relationships had experienced abusive behaviour in forms, frequencies and patterns very similar to those reported by battered heterosexual women. What's more, they found that gay, lesbian and straight people stayed in those relationships for basically the same reasons.

"Why don't they just leave?" is a question asked by many and it's a very difficult one to answer. The reasons can be manyfold. The violence may be periodic, and the loving periods between violent episodes entice the person to stay. Some survivors believe that they provoked or deserved the violence. Often they really believe they love their partners in spite of the abusive behaviour; they don't want to leave, they just want the beatings to stop.

Sometimes the pressure to conform to established social norms forces gays and lesbians into relationships that are ultimately destructive.

*Woman:* "It was horrible. There couldn't be any public displays of affection. If a man flirted with you, you would have to flirt with

continued on page 13

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continued from page 12

him so that nobody would suspect. I mean if anyone knew that would be terrible. So, you just continue to live a big fat lie."

Does living in the closet for so long set people up to be victimized? Some counsellors feel it does. Gays and lesbians forced to repress their true emotions can be more vulnerable. "The more isolation, the more barriers there are to face, the greater the risk," says Karen Walroth from Calgary's Action Committee Against Violence. "It's the same with people with disabilities. The rate of victimization is even higher. There is a strong correlation between the more barriers we create, the more oppression that exists, and the incidence of violence."

Some other myths clutter the problem. Thoughts prevail that roles played in domestically violent lesbian and/or gay relationships mirror life. The butch one is always the perpetrator and the femme is always the victim. This is not always the case.

The issue of sado-masochism also raises its head. S&M exists within both straight and gay relationships, but popular bias among the general public frequently attaches it to the gay community.

"It must be noted that S&M is very different from domestic violence. There are contracts in place between partners that govern the behaviour and the degree to which it is exercised," said Rae-ann Wood Schatz, executive director of Peer Support Services for Abused Women. "Domestic violence and abuse are very different. There are no mutual contracts. Sexual abuse can occur but not as a consensual component of the relationship. Abuse is about power, control and the emotional denigration of the partner."

How do the gay and lesbian communities react? Initially, one would think that the communities would want to heal their own wounds. They do. The issue, however, is a very complex one. One survivor, a woman, was bitterly disappointed by the lack of support from within and the absence of understanding by her peers.

Gays and lesbians are lobbying to make their relationships as viable and socially acceptable as heterosexual unions. If, suddenly, this whole issue of domestic violence rears its head, it can threaten that image. It has also been expressed that it opens the door to more 'gay bashing' and overt prejudice. It will just reinforce the stereotypical point of view that they are all somewhat warped anyway.

The curious paradox is that the incidence of domestic violence inside same-sex relationships doesn't distance them from straight communities. It makes them remarkably similar. Despite this compelling and simple truth, the issue remains in the closet.

"Same-sex domestic violence is one of the last taboos," says Karen Walroth. "We're still a long, long way from dealing with it because we still have so much trouble accepting the need to come to grips with the reality of domestic violence inside straight relationships."

If you require help or further information regarding domestic violence, here are some points of contact:

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Support Services*** | |
| Peer Support Services for Abuse Women | 228-0293 |
| The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Association | 234-8973 |
| ***Crisis Lines (24 hours)*** | |
| Distress Centre/Drug Centre | 266-1605 |
| Men's Domestic Violence Conflict Help Line | 266-4357 |
| Sheriff King Family Violence Prevention Centre | 266-0707 |
| ***Shelters*** | |
| Calgary Native Women's Shelter | 531-1972 |
| Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter | 232-8717 |
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# Equal or special?

***by John Coulbourn***

I learned something the day the verdict came down in the O.J. Simpson case, something that has nothing whatever to do with getting away with murder.

Like every office in North America, I suspect, we'd all discussed the whole thing *ad nauseum* as the bizarre tale unfolded, and by the day the verdict was announced, we'd all agreed that the guy was guilty as sin.

My first reaction when the 'not guilty' verdict was read was one of pure shock, followed by a feeling of disgust as two of my work-mates, both men of colour, cheered like their team had just won the world series.

It was one of those fight or flee moments and, for once, I fled—but only as far as the down-stairs cafeteria, where I sat in the smoking room and fumed. Regardless of skin colour, cheering the acquittal of a man of whose guilt you are convinced is horrifying, and his victims, regardless of skin-colour, deserved better.

I had a conversation later with one of the co-workers whose behaviour had so offended me and, while I took his explanation of his behaviour at face value, that didn't prevent me from extrapolating it into a broader world.

What he told me was that, after years of oppression, O.J.'s acquittal initially seemed like a victory of sorts for his entire race.

On a deeper level, however, what he was saying (although he had no idea of it) was that after a certain amount of oppression, an oppressed people hungers for more than mere equality. Over the long haul, sustained oppression creates not just an appetite for equality, it creates a hunger for special status too.

I've been thinking about all of this in light of the raid, earlier this year, on the Bijou Theater, a club in Toronto's gay village that featured a 'slurp ramp', described in the *National Post* as "a plywood fence in a large room where patrons could put their penises through holes drilled in the plywood and receive anonymous oral sex."

After a series of several visits to the club, police charged nineteen men, alleging that they committed indecent acts.

Once those charges were laid, it immediately became a *cause celebre* within the gay community, and the whole thing was quickly painted largely as yet another example of gay persecution.

But, frankly, I'm not sure it is a gay issue at all, in light of the fact that similar charges had been brought in Quebec, against the owner of a straight swingers' club where men and women had public sex.

Unlike the nineteen charges in Toronto—which were ultimately dropped—the Quebec charges were prosecuted, and the owner was found guilty.

What this tells me is that public sex in a private place is not a gay issue at all,

rather more an issue for libertarians of all bents and persuasions who feel that what consenting adults do in the exclusive company of other consenting adults is none of anybody's business but their own.

A lot of gay men in Toronto have never been to the Bijou and a lot of them are likely never to go. Some disapprove of the kind of things that were 'going down' there, while a lot more, it seems to me, don't really have any opinions at all. When it comes to things sexual between consenting adults, we gays tend to be a pretty accepting community—and frankly, I think that's all to the good.

But, in accepting this as a gay issue, we come perilously close to asking for special—not equal—status within our society. If straight swingers' clubs can be closed down on the grounds of public immorality, then gay clubs can be—*must* be—judged by the same standards.

Activists in the gay community have been fighting for decades for us, for our lifestyle to be recognized as a legitimate part of a broader community. To do that, we have demanded that the laws of the broader community be applied with an even hand to our community as well. Now is the first time to live by those laws.

And if those laws interfere with the way we choose to live our lives, then we should join the broader community to fight to have those laws changed for all of us.

As a gay issue, this glove just don't fit.

***John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.***

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# Big crown; bigger heart

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IN THE NEWS

Regardless of unpleasant associations, unappealing prospects, or past emotional baggage, the holiday season still stands out as one of the most noteworthy in the calendar year. Unfortunately, for many children this is a time of disappointment and unhappiness long before the luxury of cynicism appears on the horizon.

In an effort to bring a little light to what should be a festive season for all children, Ron Cardy (AKA Empress XX Rhonda) is once again launching the Crowns for Kids campaign.

Spearheaded by Cardy four years ago, the project is meant to share the wealth both within and without the gay community.

"I got Crowns for Kids started when I was reigning [Empress] and I went to San Diego and saw that their court system had the biggest toy drive that city had ever seen," Cardy recalls. "And when I got back, as a gay dad it made me think about my own community and the fact that many children go without Christmas presents every year. So I came back and made that my proclamation: until the day I die there will always be a Crowns for Kids."

Of paramount importance for Cardy in the grand scheme of things are the themes of outreach and inclusion.

"Not only do gay and lesbian homes benefit from the program but the Women's Shelter, Children's Hospital—many 'straight' places that need toys benefit from it as well," he stresses.

"The straight community sees in this way that the gay and lesbian community does care and does have a heart."

Christmas '99 looks to be one of the most promising for both Cardy and those who benefit from the campaign with a higher level of involvement from the community as a whole.

"Rainbow Pride Resource Centre is a major drop-off point for us this year," Cardy says. "The gay car club [Rocky Mountain Cruisers] will assist me the week of the nineteenth, to drop off all the toys, and Bearback Calgary are going to provide two of their most 'bear-like' guys to do shooter sales at the kick-off show."

The launch party and show will take place starting at 10:30 p.m. Nov. 27th at the Midnight Café, and toys and donations will be accepted at the Rainbow Pride Resource Centre any time up to and including December 19.


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# One hot topic

*by Cindy Filipenko*

A million years ago, when I was a young sprite, it was not an uncommon occurrence for me to stuff envelopes and affix posters to telephone poles. I did this for a variety of causes, both artistic and political. The main political occupation of my early twenties was helping to organize the Annual B.C. Gay and Lesbian Conference.

Through this experience I learned two very important things: the secret to making any poster stick to metal and the other, in order to witness a fabulous free-for-all you have to throw at least four (preferably more like forty) relative strangers into a room and introduce the topic of pornography.

The last year I was involved in the conference we devoted an entire track—four workshops over two days—to the subject. From the committee where we decided the nature of the workshops onwards, it was evident that this was going to be one of the more explosive topics at the conference.

For even among the four of us—two fags and two dykes—there was great dissension. The arguments went from, "Where do you draw the line?" to "Why draw a line at all?"

What made devoting twelve hours of workshops to pornography a particularly bold move was the timing of it all. In the early '80s, nice feminists were anti-porn and nice dykes were nice feminists—it was the "rule." Nice gay men maybe had a stash of *Blueboys* spiced up with the occasional copy of *Drummer* in their bedside night stands, but they certainly didn't spend time justifying their porn to nice dykes. (Remember, this was a time before the Internet and unlimited access to sexual text and images.)

Outside of a few brave leather dykes, lesbians weren't proudly displaying their pristine copies of *On Our Backs* and *Bad Attitudes*—two American-based women's

porn mags that first hit the stands in 1983. And hardly *any* woman would admit that pornography had a place in her life.

When we did discuss porn, it was in theoretical context. Feminist writer Andrea Dworkin was spouting the "porn is the theory and rape is the practice" line and many women bought it out right. However, some of us weren't so sure...

After all, there was pornography and then there was erotica. Porn was the stuff that lined the shelves of Red Hot Video stores featuring titles like *Delta Delta Dykes: College Lezzies on the Rampage*. Erotica was that scene in *Desert Hearts*.

At one of the aforementioned envelope stuffing afternoons, I screwed up my courage and asked the most exalted among us what she thought the difference between pornography and erotica was. She was a major lefty, a university prof and a femme: if anyone would have an interesting answer, it would be her.

She stopped stuffing the conference registration packages for just a moment and with a flip of her spiral perm answered, "If it's dirty and it turns you on, it's erotica; if it's dirty and it turns you off, it's pornography."

I laughed. Her answer was so perfectly simple and made such good sense, for upon the examination of its etymology, pornography means little more than sexual writing or, to be specific, "the writing of whores."

The pornography track at the conference was well attended and the emotional fireworks spectacular. I am sure there were people whose blood pressure hovered in the dangerous zone for days after. However, the fallout from the conference was ultimately positive: dykes started talking about porn and the place it had in their lives.

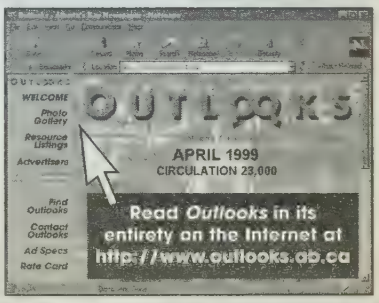
A few months after the conference I was sitting having a coffee with a fiercely political dyke. We were chatting about the new dyke sex mags and how they often didn't really 'do the job.' I offered that I had read the smut my various gay male roommates had and found it to be, well, stimulating. She guffawed and let loose a fine spray of coffee before making her big admission. She had borrowed a VHS copy of *The Pizza Boy Delivers* from a gay male friend.

Pornography serves a purpose in our lives; it provides a safe terrain to explore our sexuality and supplies us with a lexicon to express our desires.

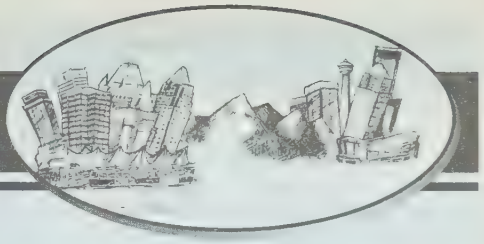
The issue that remains is: where do we draw the line? For most of us, it's sexually violent materials and kiddie porn.

To define some materials as pornographic and therefore illicit, while other materials are defined as erotic and therefore unfettered by our legal system, doesn't seem right or possible. Images or texts that extol sexual violence or exploit minors need to be dealt with under laws that protect all humanity from those abuses.

And the secret for sticky posters? Fill a spray bottle with Carnation condensed milk. You'll smell really bad after putting up a few posters, but you'll be secure in knowing that they'll be secure.



# COMING OUT TO Vancouver?



# A passionate radical

*by Pat Johnson*

Hours before nominations closed for Vancouver's Nov. 20 civic election, Jamie Lee Hamilton headed down to city hall and snatched back the nomination she had submitted two days earlier for the mayor's race, and in its place turned in forms to make her a candidate for city council.

The move was probably a smart one. Hamilton had almost no chance of defeating the incumbent mayor Philip Owen—a poll she herself commissioned told her that much—but switching over to a council race gave her at least a shot at becoming the city's first transgendered city councillor.

Unfortunately, the move was also a reminder of a similar change of heart Hamilton had three years ago, possibly leaving the impression that she is fickle. Having been nominated by the city's left-wing Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE), Hamilton split with that party just days before the election, declaring herself an independent. She came about 12,000 votes short of victory, finishing fourteenth (in Vancouver's at-large election, the top ten finishers win). Not a bad showing, especially since every seat available was won by the centre-right Non-Partisan Association. In the ensuing three years, Hamilton was one of the few activists who kept an eye on the elected officials, providing much of whatever slapdash opposition exists in the city currently.

She formed a centre and advocacy group for street prostitutes and arranged funding to provide cell phones for hookers in a neighbourhood where two dozen women have disappeared without a trace in recent years.

She's controversial, but it remains to be seen whether that will hurt or help her in Vancouver's unique political environment.

Her campaign office is almost a stereotype of the hardworking underdog's nerve centre. Trolley buses zoom past outside on Hastings Street, sending shudders through the office, where earnest campaign staff make their way through phone lists and the candidate, hoarse from a lingering cold, relaxes on a threadbare couch talking to a journalist as the campaign gets underway.

Hamilton is an enigma. She wears her heart on her sleeve, making friends with journalists and opposing politicians over the years, yet managing to surprise them all with sudden statements or unpredictable political decisions. She has sudden changes of heart, like leaving her party or dropping her run for the mayor's chair, yet her passionate radicalism is as dependable as the northern star.

She comes by her politics honestly: her parents were both union activists. "My family comes from a very working-class perspective," Hamilton says. "It was in my blood. It was so much in my blood that I rebelled against it."

She laughs talking about her rebellion, but becomes intense when she talks about how she was drawn back to her activist roots through neighbourhood politics in the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association. The agency emerged from the ferment of the city's Skid Row three decades ago and has remained a vibrant and formidable force in city politics ever since.

The issue that she is making central to her campaign is safety, something that has as much resonance to streetwalkers down in Hamilton's bailiwick as it does to the frightened seniors and wealthy businesspeople watching BCTV's sensational coverage of suburban home invasions.

Bigotry has played a role in her life. There were the predictable schoolyard taunts for the boy who would grow up to be this self-assured and formidable woman. There was also racism, directed by her father's white relations toward her mother's First Nations roots.

"That saddens me. I was ashamed of my heritage," she says. "My grandmother told me many times when I was young, 'You look white—don't tell people.'"

And that was the aboriginal grandmother.

It didn't end there. She says she wasn't all that welcome in COPE last election, despite the pioneering work her family had done with the party.

"The hierarchy of COPE didn't want me putting my name forward," she says. Her opponents in the governing party have been likewise unpredictable. She has been shown warmth, she says, from unexpected quarters, including from one of the city's most noted curmudgeons who is retiring from politics this year. But another of her friends on council told her something that she found unsettling.

"They're scared of you," the councillor said of some council colleagues, according to Hamilton. "They don't know what to make of you."

Others, even those who could not be described as transphobic, don't quite know what to make of Hamilton either. She could be described as a gadfly. She has launched plenty of public relations escapades that didn't go anywhere and she is sometimes seen as a one-person show. She is a clearing-house for political gossip, very frequently on the other end of the line when journalists pick up their phones.

Yet, leaving aside her credentials, abilities and not insignificant flaws, if any city seemed poised to elect a transgendered councillor, it is Vancouver.

In a fact that seems ironic to outsiders, five of Vancouver's twenty-seven elected officials are gay or lesbian, all of them members of the city's ostensibly right-wing party. To Hamilton, the explanation for that is clear. "We're a west coast city."

But why the right-wing party?

"Gay men want to be like white heterosexual men," she opines. "It appears that they still buy into the established classes."

Hamilton's place in the city's gay community is uncertain. She has plenty of friends and supporters, but she has also felt the sting of rejection, including a nasty and inexplicable diatribe that was recently postered around the city's largest gay neighbourhood, the West End

Time will tell whether the public is willing to welcome her into government. There is an uphill battle to get any opposition representation at all onto city council, so in some ways she stands as good a chance as any.

When people vote, she thinks they will overlook the changes she has been through and elect her because she is the kind of person they would like to have representing them: a leftist in the old activist form who has made a name for herself by standing firm on issues.

And she plays down her occasional flamboyance. "I'm me. Very ordinary."

# The addiction game

**by Darrin Hagen**

Acid, marijuana, MDA, cocaine, mescaline, speed, crystal meth, mushrooms, bennies, alcohol, poppers…

Been there, done that, wrote the musical.

I'm now one of the geezers (mid-thirties) that can say "When I was a twinkie…"

I've snorted, smoked, drank, inhaled, cranked and now and then made some tea. I've passed out, forgotten how I got home, barfed until I thought I would die.

*Hey, this is kind of cathartic.*

Why the confession? Context, darlings.

Of course, I can't speak of the addiction problem in the gay subculture without 'fessing up to my own role in the proceedings. It was my way of life for nearly a decade. And before I examine (with a critical eye) the major role addiction plays in our lives, I must come clean: I partied. A lot. And I have to say, I'm glad I did. Things I will never forget—now that I've finally remembered them again—happened during those years. My whole sense of community relied on a constant flow of additives into my system.

That's just the problem, according to addictions counsellors. Much of the lesbigay population's interaction is centered around the club scene, and with the party being so central to our social identity, our socializing can take quite a toll. The sheer volume of reality-altering substances consumed on your average weekend by your average party fag is enough to make a hardened man tremble. And with gays being on the cutting-edge of absolutely everything, they are, of course, redefining the Weekend Warrior. The combinations of chemicals a homo pumps into his body during a free-for-all like Ball Weekend, Gay Mardi Gras or a circuit party can be staggering to the neophyte. With the rage now being Ecstasy, Special K and Viagra in various orgasm-inducing super-combos, the science of homo partying has reached a new height. The gay community now has the dubious distinction of being on the vanguard of "X-treme" partying.

In an article first published in the *New York Native* in 1982, Michael Shernoff wrote: "The issue is not which drugs are consumed, but the fact that chemicals are regularly and seemingly casually taken without any awareness of the possible negative ramifications of using them."

It is thought that the high incident of alcoholism and drug abuse within the lesbian and gay community is related to the repressiveness of the highly homophobic society we live in. Gay men routinely rely on some sort of chemical as part of their recreation. Many use drugs to mask their anxiety and insecurity, not just in a social situation, but to numb their reaction to how they are perceived by others.

If you are not sure whether or not it's possible for you to get through your weekend's activities sans artificial stimulants, maybe it's time to try some of your recreation without drugs. If you don't enjoy yourself, it would probably be in your best interest to ask yourself why.

The dangers lurk around every corner when you use drugs. For those who read this and scoff, let me pull a couple of examples from my real-life files.

Last year, a friend of mine hit bottom and he collapsed into a coma upon reaching the hospital. The word was that he had destroyed his nasal cavity from all the cocaine he had been abusing. An actual hole had formed in the nasal cavity, finally exposing his brain directly to the stuff he was snorting. It is thought that while snorting cocaine, the exposed parts of his brain came into direct contact with the drug and whatever else came along with it (chemicals are notoriously impure and inconsistent). He never recovered from that coma and an infection in his brain took him out of this world last July. But before he died, he lost his business, his condo, his car, and every one of his friends that wasn't a cokehead. This wasn't some naïve party guy, but an experienced man who had been on the scene for decades. Despite being successful in most of his life, the need for extra stimulation did him in. The way he shut out all the people important to him in the last year of his life was sad; all the friends who would have helped were ignored as he hung with a progressively more hardcore crowd.

The most shocking part of the tale was that he hit bottom within two years of quitting drinking and switching to cocaine. *Two years* from the top to the absolute bottom. At his funeral, the people who did hard drugs with him carried his coffin to the hearse.

Another dear friend hit a different bottom a few months later. A run-in with the police cost him his job and he decided to dry out. Five months later he was totally clean, and is now celebrating a year of total sobriety. But first he went through the withdrawal of ten years of substance (any substance) abuse. "I wanted to crawl out of my body," he confesses. "I could feel it seeping from my bones." He is just now talking the first baby steps toward a newer, more independent life—at the age of thirty. But that year of recovery cost him: now he has a criminal record. The saddest part of it all is that his friends that he used to party with keep partying, only now without him. They'll desert him at a restaurant table without a thought when cocaine enters the picture. The pain in his voice when he relays these tales is heartbreaking. Having been there himself, he knows where *he* lies on their priority list.

According to Randy Harris of the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission in Calgary, when a young man realizes he's gay, but sees no healthy examples of what that could be, it is easy to start taking drugs. And the gay community is so ambivalent on the issue that it's even easier to justify that drug use. He even told me of straight men who regularly hit the gay bars, because the drugs are plentiful and easy to locate. "We all care what people think of us," he says. "The problem is when we start running our lives to please others."

Learning to love yourself is key—and internalized homophobia and self-loathing in the gay community is well-documented. The lure of substances that alter your reality is hard to shake, even once you've "hit bottom" or made the difficult decision to take charge of your life and dry out. Cleaning up your life often means saying goodbye to many of your friends, because you have to leave that environment behind.

Harris quoted some disturbing stats: gays and lesbians are four times more likely to be addicted to something. Forty percent have had, or will have, a substance abuse problem. "But you have to interpret those statistics," he stresses. "Anyone who is suffering from not living fully is what's important, not the numbers." He also points out that there is a real risk whenever drugs are mixed, as there is no 'quality control' or assurance of what is in them: "We trust dealers to give us stuff that won't kill us."

And that isn't always the case: rumours fly of homos dropping dead in Vancouver from doing cocaine that was actually pure heroin; fags having heart attacks from snorting poppers while on Viagra. Doing chemicals is a total crapshoot, because it's impossible to know what you're actually putting in your body. If you don't know what's being mixed, the danger rises. If you start mixing a big cocktail in your system, there's no way of telling how the body will react.

So how do you tell if you have a problem?

"If your use of substances leads to problems you don't want repeated, you have a problem," says Harris. That means we all have to ask ourselves the hard questions, and answer them honestly. Has your drug use affected your job, your relationship, your health? If so, then maybe some addiction counselling should be on your list of priorities. Achieving the goal of complete recovery means facing core problems such as isolation, repressed trauma and cultural pain with fearless honesty.

Self-esteem is the key. Being free from the bondage of others' opinions of us will help us to become whole. The big picture many don't want to see is that compulsive and addictive behavior is one of the many ways homophobia is killing us.

Let's not give the homophobes another weapon to crush us with.

## *Outlooks* a winner

*Outlooks* would like to extend sincere congratulations to our Edmonton contributor Darrin Hagen on his recent Vice Versa Award. His article "Wrestling With A Double Standard," submitted as part of *Outlooks*' entries, came in second place of the Division 'B' segment of the Best Op-Ed/News Analysis category, in the annual awards for gay journalism in North America.

The Vice Versas were created in 1997 to honour the fiftieth anniversary of the gay and lesbian press, which began in 1947 with a lesbian magazine called *Vice Versa*. The program is coordinated by Q Syndicate, a gay and lesbian news service based in the U.S.

This years awards saw over 1000 entries from eighty-five publications all over North America, including twenty states and three provinces.

The panel of judges, drawn from a variety of sources within the gay media, selected winners in categories that included Best Contribution By A Young Journalist, Best Editorial and Best News Interview or Personality Profile.

In reference to Hagen's piece, one of the judges remarked that it was nice to see such "good stuff from Canada."

In addition to the recognition by the Vice Versas, the official World Wrestling Federation website linked to "Wrestling With A Double Standard" when it ran in *Outlooks* online, resulting in a flood of both positive and negative e-mail to the paper from wrestling fans.

"It's an honour: I was very flattered and very surprised," Hagen says of the award, "It's really great when you write from the heart and somebody says 'Hey, I like that'."

*Outlooks* would also like to extend congratulatory wishes to its other gay media cohorts, both in the U.S. and Canada, who won awards in this year's Vice Versas.

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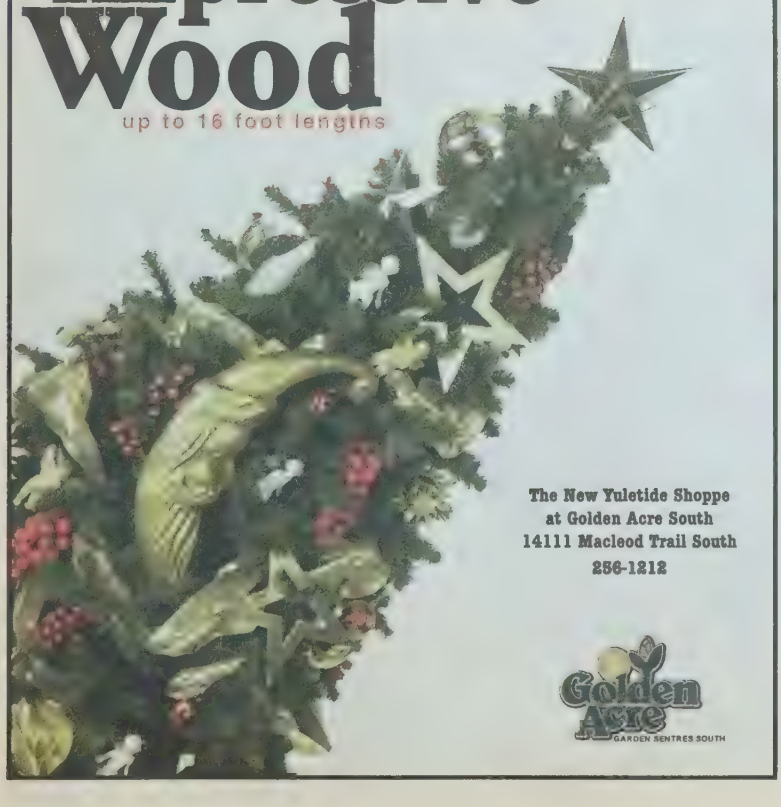

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## DON'T YOU WISH?

Randy is as happy spending time hiking as he is spending time in conversation with friends over a good glass of wine.

PHOTO BY SIMON BURROUGHS

# OUT & ABOUT IN CALGARY

**DECADE OF DECADENCE:** Celebrating Boyztown's ten-year anniversary (from left) Lady "B", Dean and Flo. (Above) David and Izora.

**WELL TURNED OUT:** The fashionable crowd at Small Change... Big Changes.

**HOLDING COURT:** Members of the ISCCA past and present (from left) T'Wanda, current reigning Emperor Sean Boink, Empress XX Mz. Rhonda and Anita Lay helping to make Big Changes.

**PORCINE PAGEANT:** Candidates for Best Dressed Pig at the October 23 Red & White Club gala.

**SILENCE IS GOLDEN:** Fundraiser auction items on the block at the Pig Party.

**TOGA TIME:** A big-hearted volunteer dressed for success at the Pig Party.

**CHINA DOLLS:** British ex-pat Vicki Chia and sassy socialite Theresa Lim at the Pig Party.

**KING AMONG QUEENS:** Elvis resurrected for a good cause.

**DON'T BRUSH THAT PLAQUE AWAY!:** Co-chairs Michael Wright and David Chare (back) look on as Sherrie MacRae, wife of founder Lorne MacRae, presents Bryan Peffers of the Southern Alberta HIV Clinic with a plaque commemorating monies donated from Small Change... Big Changes.

**CAUSE TO CELEBRATE:** Lorne Doucette (left) and Ken Schulz at the Backlot Third Anniversary Party.

**BOYZTOWN ON THE TOWN:** Dean and "B" at the Pig Party.

***Planning an event in Calgary or Edmonton?*** *Contact us at 228-1157 and we'll see about getting it covered in Out & About.*

*"Oriental Vase With Crab Apples" - Gish*

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# A magical partnership

SIEGFRIED AND ROY WITH THEIR WHITE LIONS
photo by Magic Box Productions

**by Benjamin Peters**

"You seem awfully interested in what goes on in our bedrooms," says Roy Uwe to the perky woman reporter seated to my right.

That's Roy of Siegfried and Roy talking, so you can understand there was more than a passing interest among the five journalists who had been granted an audience with one of the most famous entertainment twosomes in the world.

We had been invited to sit down with Roy and his longtime "partner" (or is that companion?) Siegfried Fischbacker to talk about *The Magic Box,* a dazzling 3D IMAX film documenting their incredible Las Vegas act.

The film shows glimpses of some of the astounding magic as lions, tigers and elephants appear and disappear into thin air. Equally astounding are the recreated scenes of Roy and Siegfried's boyhood lives in postwar Germany.

The giddy young female journalist had asked Roy and Siegfried three questions about who slept with what.

Yes, you read properly.

Not 'who slept with whom', or if Roy sleeps with Siegfried—or if he *ever* slept with Siegfried.

No, the journalist wanted to know if the boys sleep with the fifty-five tigers and sixteen lions that share their palatial estate in Las Vegas.

"Nobody comes into my room without my permission. No person. No tiger. No lion," says Siegfried with a challenging glance toward Roy.

"We have our separate lives. We have our own spaces. We're our own bosses."

I don't think he's talking about the lions and tigers.

There were stories a couple of years back that Siegfried and Roy had brought lawyers in to dissolve one of their partnerships.

They're still performing on stage together, so presumably that means the "other" partnership.

But you'll not get those kind of details from the boys at this press meeting.

They'll talk *around* their sexuality, but they won't say "yea" or "nay."

It's always been as much apart of their mystery as the disappearing lions in their magic act.

"As you can imagine, it's not always simpatico between us," says Siegfried. "At times it's like the Clash of the Titans."

Roy adds pointedly that "it's not about winning the war. It's about understanding it."

That "war," be it of emotions or words, has been worth it, resulting in world renown and mind-boggling fortunes for both men. Not bad for a couple of lonely kids whose individual futures looked awfully bleak.

Siegfried was born in Rosenheim, Germany.

"The war had turned my father into a broken man. Ours was not a happy house," recalls Siegfried. "The only thing that interested me was a beautiful magic book I saw in the bookstore. My parents couldn't afford it so I figured my dream would never come true."

Destiny stepped in.

WHAT A PAIR OF CUT-UPS!
photo by Sam Emerson

"I would go to that store window every day and gaze at the book. One day I saw a five mark bill floating in the gutter. It was enough to buy the book. I was nine years old and I practiced my magic every day in secret until I felt I could perform for my father," he says. "When I did a disappearing coin trick, it was the first time I had seen my father smile in a very, very long time. I knew if I could reach my father through magic I could reach anyone."

Roy, who is six years younger, grew up in Nordenham, Germany.

"My family was as bad, if not worse, than Siegfried. My only friend was my wolfhound Hexe.

"One day we were out in the field. I was chasing a black raven and didn't watch where I was going and fell into quicksand.

"I asked Hexe to find help. He ran off and came back with a farmer. I knew then I had an ability to speak to animals."

Cut to their fated meeting aboard the ocean liner, The Bremen, thirty-nine years ago.

Roy was fifteen years old; Siegfried was twenty-one. Both young men had signed on as stewards.

Roy was working as a bellboy.

Siegfried was the ship's magician, promoted to the position after showing the captain some of his magic tricks. At one performance, Siegfried made a dove appear. Roy was smitten.

He asked Siegfried if he could make something bigger appear as if from nowhere.

"What did you have in mind, little boy?" asked Siegfried.

"Come to my room and I'll show you," said Roy.

What Roy was so eager to show Siegfried was a young cheetah he had smuggled on board the ship, the biggest trick he could boast of to date being keeping the big cat a secret from the crew and passengers.

Before running away to sea, Roy had worked at the Bremen Zoo where he'd become friends with a cheetah and her cubs. He left with one of the cubs. "We became very good friends," he recalls. "So when I left the zoo I had to take Chico with me."

Siegfried was impressed. No, he was *very* impressed with Roy and his cheetah. They both became part of the magic act.

"From that very first day, he was always telling me what to do. He is the kind of person who knows everything better," recalls Roy.

Completely unfazed by his partner's revelation, Siegfried adds that: "When we met, Roy seemed a little bit obnoxious but he believed in me and what I could do as a magician.

"Roy was the first person who believed in me unconditionally.

TEEN ROY WITH CHICO LEAVING THE DIGITALLY SPECTACULAR BREMEN ZOO IN *THE MAGIC BOX*
photo by Magic Box Productions

A SCENE OF THE DUO'S NEW MAGIC SHOW ABOARD AN OCEAN LINER IN *THE MAGIC BOX*
*photo by Magic Box Productions*

"To this day, I believe our meeting was meant to be. It was on that boat that Roy and I started our journey together. Over the years we have bonded."

Roy has compliments of his own to offer.

"Siegfried has always been the inspiration in my life. His mind staggers me."

But wait. Let's fast-forward to those bedrooms at the estate Siegfried and Roy call The Jungle Palace.

Who *does* sleep with Roy in his mirrored boudoir?

"I sleep with my cats," he asserts. "Not all of them at one time, of course. I do everything with them.

"We [the cats and Roy] play together and meditate together."

The magnificent and extremely rare white lions and tigers that roam in the lush mini-jungle that Roy and Siegfried created for them out of the dust of the desert are featured in the world-famous *Siegfried & Roy Magic Show*.

"The most important animal is the one I am with at the moment," Roy says.

It's not the magnificent white cats that love to creep into his room.

"My black panthers love sleeping with me. I have these big feather pillows and when they get hold of one—well, you can imagine."

Roy is quick to point out that "the animals are not just props. They are our family."

Then he tells a poignant story that literally brings tears to the eyes of the female journalist.

"Some of our cats are too old to perform any more. They love the show, so once a week I bring one of them back to the theatre to watch," he says. "They know when it is their day and they are waiting for me. You can see in their face how happy it makes them to come back to the theatre."

Siegfried, Roy and their menagerie have created the most successful stage show in the history of Las Vegas.

Is all that talk about them being lovers an illusion?

You just won't get the straight facts on that question from the boys any more than you'll get them to talk about their plastic surgery (the well-tanned, well-pulled, well-coiffed Siegfried and Roy certainly don't look sixty-one and fifty-five, respectively).

They have performed more than 4,309 shows and for every one they have turned away hundreds of people.

"When Elvis played Vegas there were empty seats. There has never been a single empty seat at any of our shows."

It was for this reason that IMAX wanted to create a show based on their lives and their show.

"This movie is a story that life wrote," Siegfried offers. "Roy and I really didn't want it at first, because it is too scary to scrutinize your own life. But our friends talked us into it."

Those friends have always included the elite of the entertainment industry, from Liberace and Frank Sinatra to Michael Jackson, Elizabeth Taylor and Shirley MacLaine.

"It is always fun to laugh with Liz Taylor or discuss things with Shirley," admits Roy.

"Shirley says that I was definitely a tiger in an earlier life and she thinks she might have been a giraffe in one of her other lives."

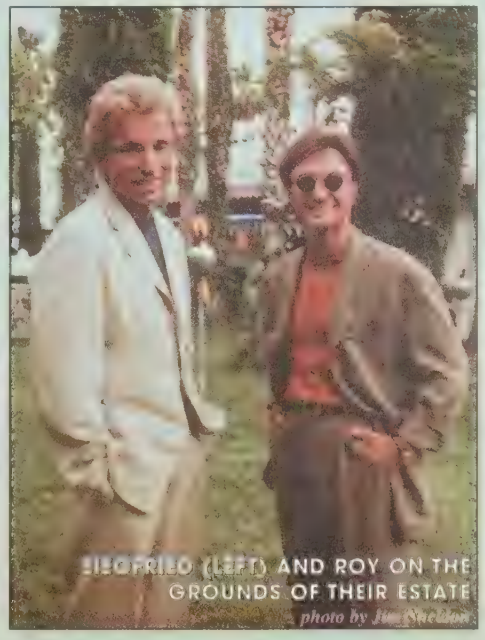
It must be great fun to be welcomed into The Jungle Palace, Siegfried and Roy's own Noah's Ark.

"The stage is our sandbox. It is where we play. But when the curtain goes down we don't live a different life because our home is our stage just as the stage is our home."

And that, folks, is just part of the illusion and magic that is Siegfried and Roy.

IMAX's *The Magic Box* is a 3-D presentation so Roy, Siegfried, their lions, tigers and spectacular magical acts land in your lap.

At $125 US a seat for their show at the Mirage Hotel in Vegas this is about as close as most of us will ever get.



SIEGFRIED (LEFT) AND ROY ON THE GROUNDS OF THEIR ESTATE
*photo by Jim Sheldon*

## Career catalyst

***by Benjamin Peters***

No one knows Siegfried and Roy better than impresario Bernie Yuman.

He has managed the dynamic duo of Las Vegas for twenty-four years.

"Siegfried and Roy are as exotic as their tigers. They are the most popular entertainers ever to play Las Vegas," Yuman insists.

That's a mighty big claim, but one Yuman is prepared to defend.

"Siegfried and Roy have been doing two shows a day for forty-six weeks a year for the past eleven years. They've also done tours to Asia and Europe," he says. "Before they started at the Mirage, the were headliners at the MGM, the Stardust and the Frontier. That means they have played live to more than 30 million people.

"The boys turn away 5,000 people a day in Vegas."

Yuman remembers the day he first saw Siegfried and Roy: "It was twenty-four years ago. I was twenty-six years old and on my way to Los Angeles to try to become a music producer. I stopped in Vegas where my mom had arranged to meet me.

"We went to the Halleluia Hollywood show at The MGM Grand Hotel. Siegfried and Roy were just one act in the big extravaganza but they were by far the most original act in the show," he continues, "I turned to my mom and said: 'There's my diamond. I don't have to go to Los Angeles.'"

Yuman quickly went out to try to negotiate a deal for the magic act that had so impressed him.

He found his venue at the Stardust Hotel.

"Their big act was The Lido but it was on its last legs. The Stardust Show Room sat 1,100 people and they were lucky if they got 400 people for each of their three shows," he recalls. "I convinced the Stardust to give Siegfried and Roy a thirty-three-minute show-within-a-show for each performance. I insisted that the showgirls would not be part of their show. The girl act would be a separate entity."

With a contract in his pocket, Yuman had only one more thing to do.

"I had to convince Siegfried and Roy to bow out of the MGM show. I had negotiated their contract without ever speaking to them."

The young, struggling entertainers jumped at the chance to be headliners.

"From the first day Siegfried and Roy headlined the Lido, the show sold out and continued to do so for three years."

Only one thing perturbed Siegfried and Roy: they were headlining an adult show with dozens of scantily clad women bopping about on stage and off.

"The boys wanted a family show," remembers Yuman.

So off went the producer looking for another struggling hotel venue. He found it at The Frontier Casino. In 1981, Siegfried and Roy opened their all-family magic extravaganza and played to sold out houses for seven years.

Why did they move?

The story is simple: "The Mirage Hotel was essentially built to house Siegfried and Roy," Yuman says. "They opened the Mirage Show Room and their $40-million special effects show in November of 1988, so this month marks their eleventh anniversary."

"Roy and I struggled for many years doing magic shows in Europe before we got our first contract in Las Vegas," Siegfried recalls.

"When we met Bernie our lives turned around completely. We built our two estates in Las Vegas turning portions of the desert into lush gardens for our animals and for ourselves."

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# HOROSCOPE

Millennium madness is beginning to take hold of us this November as insane Mercury retrogrades and redirects with impunity. Which politico can safely navigate us through gay Y2K? Cast your vote for the rainbow coalition compadres, and avoid the stuffed turkeys, unless of course. you've thawed leftovers from Thanksgiving.

### ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Proud Rams will be ready to take on the world this November, but is the world ready for your pearls of wisdom? With retrograde Mercury screeching through the cosmos for most of the month, your pearls may be tossed before swine. I suggest that you hold back on pontificating on some of your best laid plans until later in the month. Then, sing it out loud and proud!

### TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

If the path of true lust is strewn with thorns and rocks this November, blame it on incorrigible retro Mercury and give your randy patootie a rest. Gay Bulls will be tempted to pitch and woo but won't seem to get their romantic missives to the desired ears. Why not concentrate instead on professional aspirations? They do say that power, prestige and money are, ahem, alluring.

### GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Pink Twins will be caught between partner's issues and the job. Blame the strain on retro Mercury, which exacerbates any lapses in communication in these two areas. Before you become a piece of styrofoam bobbing between home and work, think of some escape routes. Maybe it's time to take that long needed vacation? Return to tackle all hanging issues after the 25th.

### CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

If you are feeling a little under the weather, blame the energy drain on retro Mercury, which kicks the stuffing out of you for part of November. Queer Crabs can't seem to get things at work under control either; folks are either not listening to you or are misinterpreting what you say. Don't despair: you'll be feeling your oats and happily cracking your whip after the 25th. Ouch!

### LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Proud, regal Lions may think they are the life of the party, but the rest of that party will beg to differ. Retrograde Mercury cramps your personal style and your message doesn't seem to translate correctly. Why not fade into the background this month and quietly enjoy the festivities from the sidelines? There will be plenty of opportunity after the 25th to make up for "lost face" time.

### VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Expect minor confusion around the house as retrograde Mercury upends domestic plans. Gay Virgins may be tempted to pour their frustrations out on family but avoid, avoid, avoid. Don't enter into any sensitive discussions now; wait until the end of November before you draw your line in the sand in any situation. In the meantime, think happy thoughts.

### LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Diplomatic pink Libras may actually experience some communication gaffes when retro Mercury fogs up your thoughts and speech. There is nothing worse than being misinterpreted or ignored—but you should be more forgiving at this time. Channel your frustrations into long-neglected home projects; sometimes there is nothing quite as reassuring as moving some furniture around.

### SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Keep this little adage in mind: a fool and their money are soon parted. Even though it seems like everyone and their idiot brother is making millions on IPOs and dot coms, when Mercury goes retrograde, queer Scorps are advised to keep their money in the bank and off the street. Another thought: if it seems to good to be true, it usually is. There are so many things to remember!

### SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Clumsy gay Archers will feel at home this November when retro Mercury has them bumping into things and people. You're not going to make the best first impression now, so try to avoid important meetings with folks you barely know. Don't sweat it too much though, honey, you are usually so genuine and friendly that no one can stay mad at you for long. Just long enough...

### CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Ignore those little voices in your head this November when retro Mercury causes static on your psychic hotline. Even your good gay deeds will seem to go unnoticed or unappreciated. That doesn't mean that you should stop your charitable efforts, queer Cap. It means that sometimes we don't always get the credit we deserve. Don't worry: you'll feast on your just desserts after the 25th.

### AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

There are times when you just can't figure out your friends. November will be one of those times as retro Mercury causes misunderstandings among compadres. Try not to jump to conclusions now. Aqueerians are well advised to channel their considerable social skills to different areas of endeavor now. How about stumping for a favorite rainbow cause? I'd vote for that.

### PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Your professional path may hit some unexpected barriers when retrograde Mercury confounds communication. If you're entering a new job, check out *all* paperwork and *all* acceptance points. If you're cruising along in your current career, avoid any major political stand now. Skillful guppies can outswim any shark if they keep their ears and eyes open and their mouth shut.

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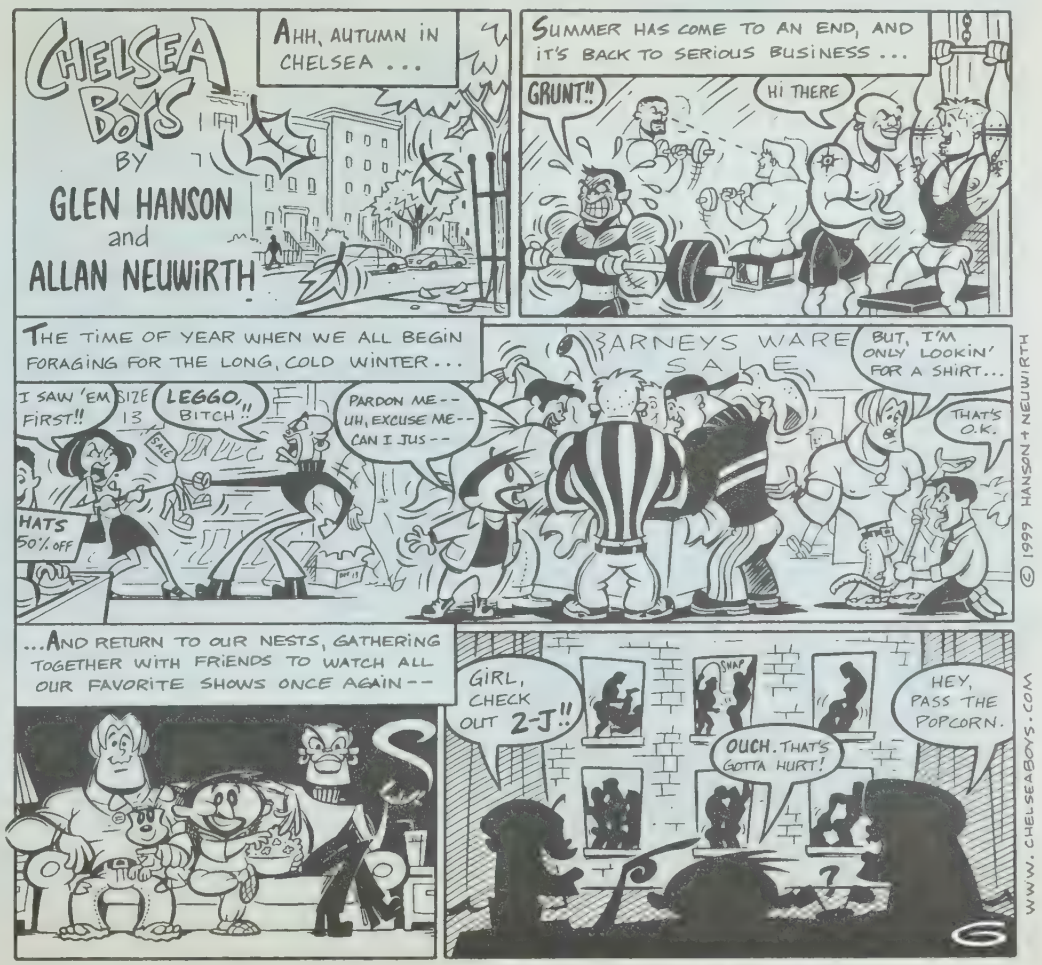

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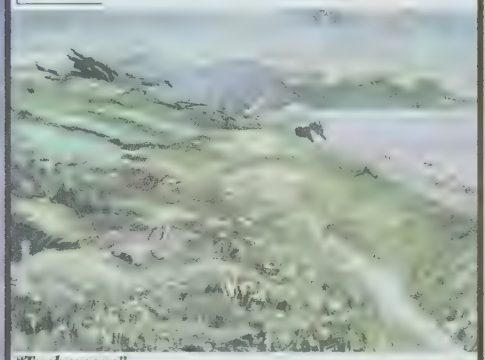

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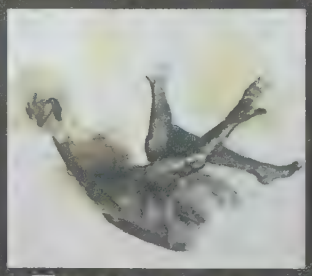

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# Toller Cranston: a lifetime commitment

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*by Bill Brooks*

In the world of Canadian culture, few names are as recognized or respected as Toller Cranston. As a six-time Canadian figure skating champion, 1976 Olympic bronze medallist, coach, best-selling author, acclaimed painter and bon vivant, he has been an exemplary diplomat on behalf of Canada in the global arena. His is truly the existence of a Renaissance man.

Calgary audiences will get a rare chance to glimpse Cranston's brilliance as a visual artist when his show The Lost Parade makes its debut at Art Mode Gallery. He will be in attendance November 4 and 5.

A WALK IN THE WOODS - 11 BY TOLLER CRANSTON

While working on a ceiling commission in Montréal, Cranston took time out to grant an exclusive interview to *Outlooks* associate editor Bill Brooks, and discusses some of the many facets of his life.

**Outlooks:** Which career defines you—skater or artist?

**Cranston:** I figured out after my fiftieth birthday that I'm an artist that skated, rather than a celebrity who paints—of which there are *far* too many. The uniqueness of my career is that I had a physical body that went along with art and yet they can't be separated because it all comes from the same place.

**Outlooks:** You don't skate anymore. Why?

**Cranston:** My skating career ended in the middle of a performance at the opening of The Air Canada Centre. I was in a Skating Legends program and I skated second from the end. I hadn't skated for a long time. In the middle of the performance I saw Barbara Ann Scott in a silver dress in the middle of the spotlight—as much as I like her, she has never ceased to be who we know. I realized in a intellectual way that in order to go to the next level I had to give up an identity that was easy to live with. Oh sure, I could train like mad, get a face lift and keep doing it for years; in a way it was like *Sunset Boulevard*. I had to give it up in order to commit myself the way other artists commit themselves. There are very few people you can talk to about giving up the very thing that was the mainstay of my life for thirty-five years.

**Outlooks:** It sounds as if this was a difficult decision to make.

**Cranston:** As I became more and more internationally known on both levels, I was being pulled apart. I was going to snap—the demands were too much. Near the end, it became a living nightmare: I couldn't stand that I wasn't able to work thousands of hours a day on both things. In the skating world, my fame was about losing competitions rather than winning. My pedigree in the losing department is unblemished .

BUTTERSCOTCH PARADE BY TOLLER CRANSTON

**Outlooks:** Your upcoming exhibition in Calgary November 4 is, I believe, a first. Correct?

**Cranston:** I have had over 100 one-man shows around the world and my first show was when I was sixteen years old. But yes, this is the first time for me to show in Calgary.

**Outlooks:** What inspires you to paint?

**Cranston:** I simply follow my natural inclination. My earliest works from the time I was six have remained consistent to this day. Strangely enough, with every painting I do, I never throw anything away. I used to subscribe to the theory of reincarnation, but I think now it's in the DNA. I was given a large dose of imagery!

**Outlooks:** Tell me about the upcoming show.

**Cranston:** The theme of this particular show in Calgary is kind of, for whatever reason, clothes. I call it The Lost Parade. It represents the residual memories that a child may have had from a parade—a shoe, a hat, a dress...

**Outlooks:** What is the most important thing for an artist to know?

**Cranston:** The most important thing of all is staying power—longevity. Ultimately you are judged by your life's work, not just one painting or show. It is a lifetime commitment.

**Outlooks:** Which artist do you most admire?

**Cranston:** The list is endless. Rembrandt, Da Vinci, Rousseau. As we go into the next century, the future of art is in the past. We have to go back in order to understand how far the human spirit can go. In order to understand any medium, you must first understand the history of that medium. The future is in the past.

***Cranston's work will be on display at Art Mode November 4 and 5. He is also in the process of publishing his sixth book.***

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# Jackie Flanagan's *Views*

***by Norm Sacuta***

Just a few short years ago, there was only one major news and current affairs magazine publishing in Alberta, and it hardly gave a balanced and fair analysis of issues relating to sexuality, social welfare, politics and the arts. *Alberta Report* has presented a face of Alberta to the outside world that feeds off the perception that the majority in our province keep a bible by the bedstand, and never, never accept a lifestyle that involves the same genitals touching.

But what really irks about *Alberta Report* isn't the content or the opinions expressed—there are bigots everywhere willing to shield their opinions behind some obscure notion of biblical truth. Rather, *Alberta Report* erases a huge number of fair-minded, deeply thinking, liberal Albertans from the stage—some of whom are religious. It either dismisses their opinions smugly, or denies their existence—it's the sort of erasure that feeds the eastern-based media in this country, which just loves to find another reason to present a cliché about the west.

Jackie Flanagan knew this, and decided to do something about it. She is a born and bred Albertan (raised in Bowness) and has a Masters Degree from the University of Calgary in English. For years she wondered why there was no real outlet for the meaningful discussion of ideas in the province's media. Most of the people around her seemed just and good, willing to accept diversity in the world. Why was there no magazine to reflect that diversity?

In the early '90s, Flanagan made a fair whack of cash through some very smart investments. She donated money to establish a chair in creative writing at the University of Calgary and then, in 1997, made the decision to do something about the lack of a forum for thoughtful discussion in Alberta. She started *Alberta Views*, a quarterly magazine that attempts to give voice to diversity, covering news, current affairs and the arts, often touching on debates (such as health care, government cutbacks and homosexuality) that receive limited coverage in the provincial media. *Outlooks* spoke with Flanagan about Alberta, the reasons for starting her magazine, and what the future holds.

**Outlooks:** How did *Alberta Views* come into being, and why did you start it?

**Flanagan:** Now that I'm totally immersed in it, I'm realizing how absolutely crazy and insane I was to undertake this [laughs], but I'm a long-time Albertan, and I felt concerned about a number of things. First of all, Klein was elected. And the beginning of the "Klein Revolution" in the early '90s, the sweep to privatize, to cut back, and all the concern—so-called concern—about the deficit and

debt, meant a restructuring of this province. It meant changing the nature of the kind of society that had been created. But even under the so-called "conservative" governments—under Social Credit, and under Lougheed's conservatives—there had been always this concern for the public good, for building infrastructure and for working towards a just society. I know that Klein's was a different era, and that there was a great deal of influence by Reagan and Thatcher.

But I wasn't sure that people in Alberta were really fully informed of what was happening—because we've got a very conservative press here. Conrad Black owns the two major papers in the two major cities—the *Journal* and the *Herald*—and we had *Alberta Report*. I think that with the kind of information we were getting that we weren't well informed. And I thought, let me give it a try. I would try to create a magazine, and I was hoping that in this province of three million people there might be thirty thousand that would want such a magazine, ultimately. At one time, at its height, *Alberta Report* had a circulation of sixty thousand. And I thought, there might be at least that kind of interest in a magazine that attempts to reflect diversity of points of view in the province, or offers some debate about the way things were going, providing a forum for the kind of vital culture that goes on here. By culture I don't mean the opera, I mean the indigenous culture, the kinds of writers and painters and musicians and filmmakers—all that was getting destroyed by the cutbacks. So I thought there might be a usefulness for such a magazine, and decided I was willing to donate, oh, how much of my life? [Laughs.] Eighteen hours a day for the next I-don't-know-how-many years.

**Outlooks:** So what are the biggest difficulties you've faced in the last two years of running a magazine?

**Flanagan:** It's probably my own inadequacy. I'm not a journalist. I'm a writer, and the kind of background I have as an academic is very much committed to the word and to writing and to the power of language. That's not a bad background. I have no experience as a business person, and no experience as a journalist or publisher. Everything I've had to learn, but in a way I don't think that's a bad thing, because the situation in Alberta is different, and technology is changing so quickly too. I think if I had gone to a journalism school back east, and cut my teeth on some magazine there, I would have had to learn everything again coming back out here. Where are our printers here? Where are our pre-press houses here? Where are the distribution businesses? All that would have had to be learned, because we don't have a big, vibrant magazine industry in this province—but it is amazingly vibrant considering the small population we have.

**Outlooks:** You often cover issues and concerns in the magazine that the other newspapers or magazines don't cover. Why is that, do you think? Is there a problem with reporting in Alberta?

**Flanagan:** Well, frankly, it's because people need to make money. And you asked me about some of the problems—do you know Noam Chomsky's *Manufacturing Consent*?

**Outlooks:** Yes.

**Flanagan:** Why is it that an American magazine like *Cosmopolitan* or *Sports Illustrated* can be very profitable in this province? Because it's niche marketed, selling a lot of products to people. In a democracy, the media and your sources of information are *so* important. They have to somehow be profitable and make a living, and they do it through advertising. They're very careful about their strategies. Right away, I went into this saying the magazine's not worth doing if I have to do that. I would like to speak to people as citizens, as people who care about the kind of society they have—not as skateboarders who are going to buy a bunch of skateboard products. Or as Cosmo girls who are going to buy a bunch of makeup. I discovered that if you don't have that concept of niche marketing, you can't attract advertisers. And it's hard because we do some things that are critical of the government. There are many businesses in this province that are sympathetic to what Klein is doing and they're not going to take the risk of advertising in our magazine. So how do you get revenue? I thought I would be able to get it through subscriptions, but it's such a struggle to make the magazine known. And it's true our subscribers are growing, but in order to really pay the bills we would need to have about ten thousand subscribers. Right now we have under five. So, I think that other magazines and forms of media—without any kind of public support—have to survive through their advertising. And that's why I think they want to do feel-good stories or something along those lines.

**Outlooks:** The same things could be said about dealing with gay issues. The acceptance of gays in North America or Western cultures in general corresponds to the amount of money they have. Suddenly advertisements and magazines start to emerge that are specifically geared towards us. How do you view an issue like gay rights in Alberta playing out in the media? How have you seen it being played out, and what kind of role could your magazine play for issues which are perhaps silenced or downplayed in the mainstream?

**Flanagan:** Well, I'm not sure that I've seen something that would concern me in the *Herald* or in the *Globe*. I think that *Alberta Report* is the one that takes a disturbing and offensive attitude, and you know what's really a shame to me about that? I believe in the irreplaceable value of every person, and I think that *Alberta Report* gives Christian people a bad name. That isn't the message of Jesus, not at all. It's sensationalist, but I don't see that in the *Herald*. I don't get that sense. What do you see in the *Journal*?

**Outlooks:** Well, really, the *Journal* is even more remarkably sympathetic towards all kinds of causes. And it is certainly open as far as gay issues go.

**Flanagan:** And Catherine Ford did a very good piece recently in the *Herald* about a lesbian couple and the adoption of a child, and how important that was. I read it and thought, yes, this is a very good piece.

continued on Page 29

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continued from Page 28

**Outlooks:** Cynically, though, don't you think that both mainstream newspapers have been good on gay issues because of the amount of wealth that is now in the gay and lesbian communities?

**Flanagan:** No, you know I think that's just too cynical. I meet lots of good people, who I think are really open. Now I'm sure you've had your own experiences where you've encountered hurtful things, and I don't mean to say that's not a reality—but I do think that with relation to the two big papers in Alberta, that is a bit cynical.

**Outlooks:** *Alberta Views* covers the arts a great deal. Why did you choose to have so much arts coverage?

**Flanagan:** The intention was always, in every issue, to have three features—one on a political issue, one on a social issue and one on the arts. I don't see the arts as icing on a cake, rather a central core to the society you create; how you choose to celebrate, to dance. Those things are what make life worth living. I think we have the perception of having more arts coverage because we do attempt to bring colour into the magazine, showcasing the work of various artists. I don't think you can talk about a society, any culture, and just think about its economy, how people make a living, and the political organization. You've got to think about the stories they tell to each other.

**Outlooks:** You mentioned that you're a writer, now you have a short story collection out called *Grass Castles*. Is that your first collection?

**Flanagan:** Yes, it is.

**Outlooks:** How has the response been to that? Have you done a book tour?

**Flanagan:** I've been too busy with the magazine to do a tour. I've done readings—a couple in Calgary and one in Edmonton—and I was invited to Wordfest. The response at the readings has been thrilling—and this might sound like bragging—but I was on the bestseller list in Calgary for twelve weeks when the book came out. After I've done a reading, the most gratifying thing to me is that people will come up, whether they were raised in Saskatchewan or a small town, and say "Yes, I remember that. I remember walking to a skating rink." There's an identification with the kind of life described in the book and that means a lot to me.

*Alberta Views* is published quarterly. You can visit their website at www.albertaviews.ab.ca to get subscription information. Jackie Flanagan's short story collection, *Grass Castles*, is published by Bayeux Arts Inc.


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# Dear Freddy...

**Dear Freddy,**

**My boyfriend and I have been together in a monogamous relationship for over a year now and I think we're in it for the long run. The problem I have is that he always looks at other guys and sometimes flirts with them. Even though he assures me that it's harmless and means nothing, it still bothers me. Am I overreacting?**

**J.P.**

Dear J.P.,

First off, congratulations on being in a relationship for over a year—that's worthy of a silver anniversary in our terms. Now, if you want to continue in this way, you're going to have to look at a few things. For example, why does your partner continue to do things he knows upset you? Is this some kind of control factor to undermine your confidence? Are you the insecure one or is he the one that needs validation and approval from others? Most guys suffer from that panic factor of "Have I still got it? Can I still get it?" when they're in a relationship. Honey, everybody looks (you should try it more often). It's one thing to go into a gallery and "admire" vases, even if you don't intend "buying" one ( or sticking your wiener in one, for that matter). However, if he's not looking close enough at your needs or concerns, maybe you should look elsewhere.

Best regards, F.

P.S. Putting a framed portrait of Lorena Bobbitt up in the bedroom couldn't hurt when it comes to emphasizing how serious you are about your relationship. Just a thought. F.

**Dear Freddy,**

**Why are you such a bitch? Were you abused as a puppy? Just wondering... Martin**

Dear Martin,

I am *not* a bitch! I can't believe with all this talk of my penis and leg-humping that you'd mistake me for a female. Obviously you are an ugly, under-sexed, mindless trog who wouldn't know good advice if it came up and bit you on your pimply white ass. I should tear your heart out and eat it with kibble.

Hugs, Fred

**Dear Freddy,**

**I am having a problem with the girl who lives beside me in my building. We've become really friendly with each other (I've even gone over for dinner there with her parents) but she's a totally inconsiderate neighbour. She's always making tons of noise with her music and talking loudly with her friends in the middle of the night (my bedroom is next to her living room). I've tried talking to her about it but she refuses to believe that the walls are that thin and laughs it off. What should I do?**

**Sleepless in Sunalta**

Dear Sleepless,

Perhaps the best 'weapon' you have at your disposal is the situation itself—use it to aurally illustrate the point you are trying to make. The next time her parents are over for a nice little dinner to which you have been invited, beg off citing "other plans" as a reason. Wait a short while until they get settled in and then start slamming your headboard into the wall, screaming things like "Oh, you're so big!" and "Ride me, Daddy-man, harder! Harder!" I think once the shoe is on the other foot—or the sound is in the other ear—she'll realize that noiseproofing is not one of your building's strongest features.

Hope this helps, Fred

P.S. You could also just tattle on her to the landlord, but that's really not as much fun, is it?

*Write to me, dears!*

**All letters become the property of *Outlooks* and are subject to editing. Write to: Dear Freddy, c/o Outlooks, Box 439, Suite 100, 1039 17th Ave. S.W. Calgary, AB T2T 0B2, or e-mail to outlooks@cadvision.com**

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Gay & Lesbian Community Services Association

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There is a new youth group forming Monday evenings at the GLCSA offices. Call 234-8973 for more information.

SheQ is running the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If you are a woman who wants to talk about issues of self-esteem and sexual identity then SheQ is the place!

Come Out the first Thursday of every month to the Bisexual Network Drop-In, at GLCSA from 7:30-9:00.

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## QUEERWORD

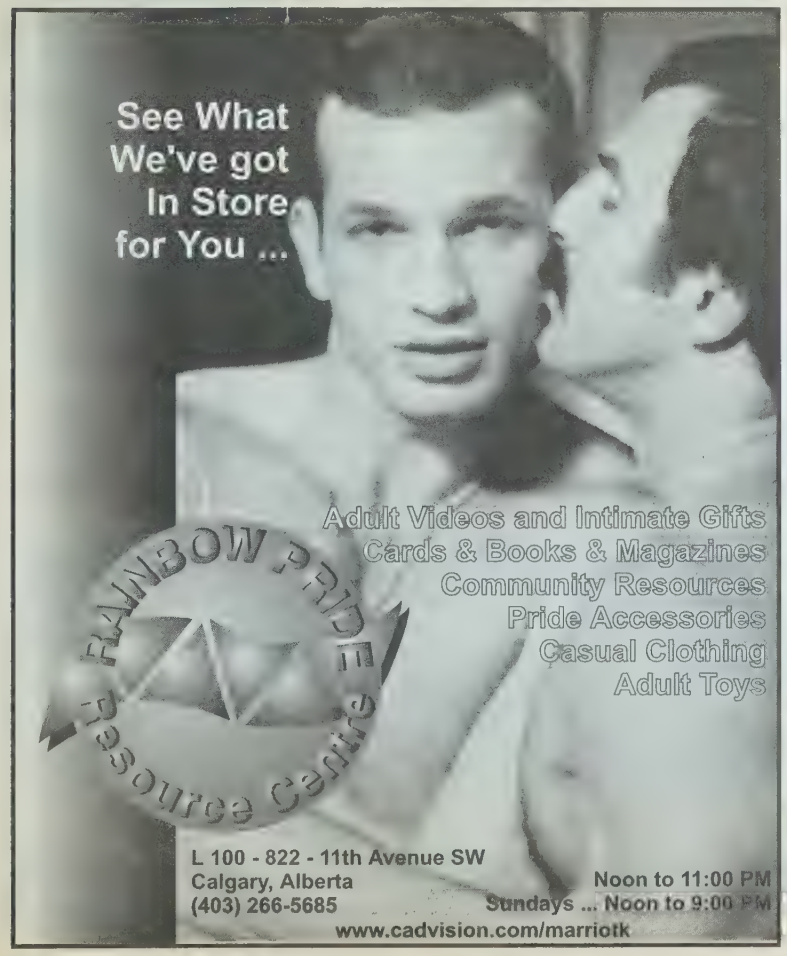
*clues & words by Outlooks staff*
*answers on Page 39*

**ACROSS**

1. Violent or oppressive behaviour
2. Boxers or ___?
6. Controversial Canuck director: ___ La Bruce
8. Not Jamie Lee Curtis, but Jamie Lee ___
11. This "dick drug" is now in recreational circulation
14. Cartoonist Rob Clarke's "doggy style" section *The ___ Parlour*
16. According to some calendars, we've already entered the ___
20. The "soul" of a photo or an HIV status
22. Siegfried and Roy's introductory vessel The ___
23. *Thunder Through My Veins* author Gregory ___
25. Mental condition with physical repercussions
26. Chan, Kennedy, or Flanagan
27. Wyoming town where M. Shepard lived

**DOWN**

1. Not *Alberta Report* but ___
2. The highest risk activity of gay sex
3. Ralph, Calvin or Anne
4. This genre could be considered 'pornography lite'
5. NYC cartoon artist struck down by AIDS
7. Television's tasty teen aliens
8. Unwanted advance, sexual or otherwise
9. Very gay-friendly denim manufacturer or butch dyke
10. Pertaining to tamed animals or the household
12. ___ and Fitch
13. On the eleventh, this Day occurs
15. Siegfried's surname
17. Nocturnal emission? Video review: ___ ___ Porn
18. Ancient Chinese study of life force manipulation
19. *Delta Delta Dykes: College ___ On The Rampage*
21. San Francisco's "glittering" bridge
24. Casual "date" or magical feat



# Barebacking: high-risk hijinks?

AIDS CALGARY
awareness association

GLCSA

*by Collin Smith,*
*The Men's Project*

Recently, people have approached me concerned about the growing popularity of barebacking, the practice of purposely choosing to engage in anal intercourse without using a condom. Large centres like New York and Toronto are starting to see a growth of clubs formed for the sole purpose of men meeting for unprotected anal intercourse. Proponents of the practice argue that we are not facing the risk factors we were in the past and that unprotected sex is a legitimate option for consenting adults.

Just because this kind of formal recognition has not hit Calgary does not mean that it is not going on. Reports are coming in the number of gay and bisexual men in the city participating in barebacking is on the rise here as well. As a result, the debate is heating up in southern Alberta. There are many people in the community who are concerned about the implications of this phenomenon and wondering what The Men's Project is going to do about it.

As a health educator, I was initially very concerned about the risks involved. Unprotected anal sex is one of the highest risk activities around. After the initial crisis of the '80s we have begun to relax, and the result has been increasing infection rates in the gay male community, especially in young people. Barebacking poses a serious risk to our community's health. That said, I realize that there are two sides to every issue and I wanted to know what the people thought.

The Men's Project recently sponsored an informal roundtable discussion and brought together a small group of gay and bisexual men to discuss what the issues about barebacking are. What are the risks? What is the appeal? What right do we have as gay men to decide about our own health?

First of all, I would like to point out that barebacking has nothing to do with Bearback Calgary. "Bears" are usually defined as hirsute men or those who are attracted to hairy men. The Bears are very concerned about the spread of HIV and recently helped The Men's Project distribute condom packs to their membership.

Our roundtable discussion brought up concerns about risk. There is no denying that having unprotected anal sex is high risk for HIV infection as well as for a series of other STDs. Many people who engage in this activity assume that their partner will *not* be HIV+. They may also not know their own HIV status. Not knowing and being uninformed puts you at high risk for transmission.

However, another issue came up in our discussion. There are many people who are concerned about choice and freedom. Do two consenting adults have the right to decide for themselves? It has always been the philosophy of The Men's Project that as long as people are educated about HIV and AIDS, they have the right to decide what level of risk is acceptable to them. All sexual contact is risky, but we would never assert that people not have sex. Rather, we insist that people educate themselves so that they have the knowledge with which to make the decision.

There are many reasons why people would find the idea of barebacking enticing and one of the biggest is the thrill. We all do something a bit dangerous because of the rush involved. The question is, how much risk is involved before it stops being thrilling and starts being foolhardy?

Some people feel that the direct skin contact increases the level of intimacy between partners. At our discussion, someone brought up that there is no risk for HIV if both partners are HIV- and monogamous. However, someone else suggested that it would be very hard to be sure that your partner is being monogamous. What does it say about our community when we don't feel very confident that there are many truly monogamous relationships?

Another reason that some people may choose to try barebacking is that they don't have a condom on hand. Do people want to put in the time and cost required to have condoms in hand at all times? The Men's Project has made it easy for all of us to access condoms, but sometimes you find yourself in a situation where you are not prepared. Then what do you do?

There are also some negative reasons why people might engage in unprotected anal sex. There are those who may want to engage in self-destructive behavior as a way of punishing themselves. Others may fall to pressure by a partner who wields the power in their relationship. Also, there are those who don't understand the risks involved and therefore might not know that they are taking a big risk.

Still, as individuals we have rights. Just as we have the right to use a condom if we want to, we also have the right to choose not to. But this provokes anger in the community as well, as many people feel that barebacking gives gay men a bad name. They say it makes us look like we have no values and reinforces the stereotypes of the gay community that are prevalent in North America.

What do *you* think about barebacking? There are many questions surrounding this issue. Do you think that medical advances have lowered our risks or does our complacency put us at even greater risk? Do you think you can trust your partners to be HIV-? Do you think a trend of having unprotected sex makes the community look bad or do you think that we have the right to decide for ourselves what risks we are comfortable with? Is this a question of health, or a question of rights—or both? What level of risk are you comfortable with?

There are no right or wrong answers. This is your chance to let your feelings be heard. This is the first in a number of questions that The Men's Project will put forward to the community for discussion. E-mail your comments to mensproject@hotmail.com and put "barebacking" in the subject line.

## • BULLETINS •

- AIDS Awareness Week Nov 22 - 29
- World AIDS Day is December 1, '99.
- The Men's Project offers Safer Sex Workshops for the community at GLCSA; Men's Workshop Sunday, November 21, 1999 1pm - 4pm; Women's Workshop Sunday, November 28, 1999 1pm - 4pm. Call 234-8973 for more info.
- AIDS Calgary Open House November 8, 1999
- World AIDS Day Memorial Service- This year's memorial will be held at Central United Church. The Memorial Walk begins at the church at 6:00pm followed by the service at 7:00pm. Call AIDS Calgary at 508-2500 for more information.

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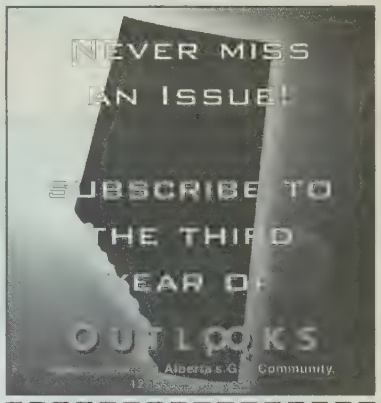
***Women's Workshop:*** Sunday, November 28, 1999 1pm - 4pm

Call GLCSA for more details: 234-8973. Presented by The Men's Project.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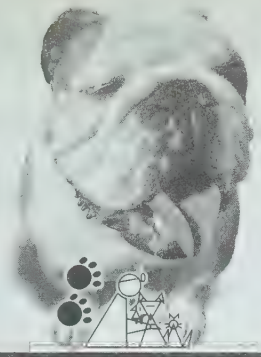

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# Sound mind and body

*by David Sloniegura*

### DON'T SWEAT THE STRESS:

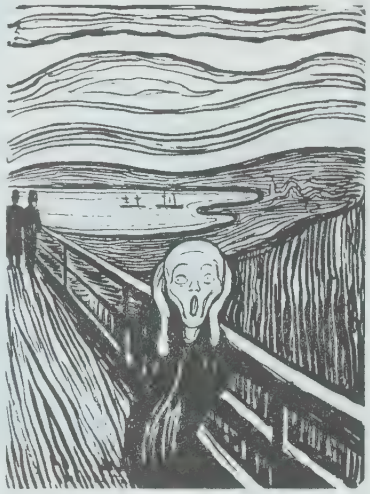
Quick, name a leading threat to the productivity of North America's workforce. If you said 'illness', you were right. Many employers (and employees) worry about sickness in the workplace because time is money. Even though a lot of companies have compensation packages for people who fall ill, in the long run it still results in decreased productivity and lost revenue. Clearly, the best scenario is to maintain good health, but how is this accomplished in demanding situations? To know this, we have to understand what makes people sick in the first place. One simple answer to that question would be: stress.

A common term for too much stress in the workplace is 'burnout'. Workers complain about it all the time, citing it as the main reason that they cannot work to their capacity. Burnout doesn't just happen to workers; students can suffer from burnout, as well as housewives and young children.

Why do people suffer from burnout? What can they do to stop or prevent it—stop working? People can't just quit their jobs, and there are alternatives.

Employers are beginning to understand the need for their workers to be healthy in order keep productivity at its maximum and sick days at their minimum. Larger companies are making it easier for people to release pent-up stress by installing fitness facilities within their company. Other companies have made deals with fitness centres where employees get a significant discount off yearly memberships. Some also offer a more flexible work schedule for their employees, instead of the usual nine to five.

People also need to deal with the stress outside of their work lives. But



first they must understand exactly what a stress is, and how the body reacts to it before they can figure out how to maintain control.

### STRESS—WHAT ABOUT IT?

A stress can be defined as a temporarily induced physiological and/or psychological imbalance caused by any action/situation (stressor) which an individual regards as a possible danger. The key word in this definition is regard, because in most cases it's not the actual stressor that creates the response, but the person's reaction to that particular situation. Depending on individual personality, people will respond in a variety of ways to the same stressor based on their perception. It is when people perceive many situations as stressful that they can become overloaded.

Stress overload can be caused by various predicaments that are believed to be stressful, including: critical life events; chronic work strain; accumulating everyday life hassles; environmental pressures (e.g.: noise pollution).

When you are is 'stressed out', you may show signs of being tense and overanxious, as well as experiencing bouts of depression and emotional distress. These symptoms tend to be more prevalent with people who lead very inactive lives, which makes sense as it is usually sedentary people who do not have an outlet for their tension.

When you don't have a way to release tension, anxiety, or any other manifestation of stress—except for having nervous breakdowns—it can lead to many health problems (e.g.: colds, flu, heart disease and cancer). In other words, stress can age you prematurely—even kill you. Conversely, a complete *lack* of stress is not an ideal situation, either.

Your mind and body requires a certain degree of tension to stay fit and healthy. Therefore, a comfortable level of stress is essential. It spurs creativity and productivity; it makes life worth living because it encourages us to strive and achieve. Few things are as frustrating as complete inactivity; we cannot simply "vegetate". We must learn to deal with our stress response in a more appropriate manner.

### FIGHT OR FLIGHT

During a stressful situation, our adrenal glands secrete the hormones epinephrine and norepinephrine (collectively known as adrenaline). These help prepare our bodies for a stressful situation by speeding up heart rate to increase the amount of blood pumping

continued on Page 35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continued from Page 34

through our bodies. Also, the blood vessels going to our muscles are expanding, allowing for greater blood flow to those regions in need. As well, the vessels going to the stomach and the intestines are shut off to halt the digestion process. This all enables us to cope with or run away from a situation, hence the term 'fight or flight'.

Other adrenaline-induced bodily functions include stimulation of the liver to release glucose stores (i.e.: blood sugar) for quick energy, especially to our working muscles. Our fat cells release free fatty acids for fuel, and we have a heightened sense of awareness that helps us think quickly and more clearly.

The fight or flight response is of great value in truly stressful situations because it allows you to deal more effectively with the matter at hand. This response is not beneficial in instances where you are the only one who perceives a situation as stressful (such as cramming to meet a deadline at the office) because all the adrenaline-induced functions are in action, yet there is no need to fight or flee.

If stressors are maintained for prolonged periods of time, the body tends to follow the three following stages: an alarm reaction, involving the fight-or-flight response; a resistance, where bodily functions return to normal; and exhaustion, where fight-or-flight symptoms return, with serious ramifications if not dealt with accordingly.

It is essential to your health that you not reach the point of exhaustion, or even incur stress responses in situations that do not call for them.

### STRESS MANAGEMENT

In order to prevent stress from getting the better of you, try to employ some good stress management principles, including regular exercise.

Physical adaptation to exercise also results in mental benefit, which seems to work hand-in-hand. People who exercise regularly tend to display emotional stability, and are more resistant to depression and anxiety. Weight training is a good form of exercise for this purpose.

While exercise itself is a stress on the body, if it is performed in a progressive manner on a regular basis it also teaches the body to resist other forms of stress and prevents you from reaching the exhaustion stage. There seems to be a direct link between a person's physical fitness and his/her ability to adapt to business pressures, social stress and emotional overloads. This also boosts a person's ability to recuperate from injury and to prevent the onset of disease.

*David Sloniegura is a graduate of Concordia University with a B.Sc. in Exercise Science and is certified with the American Council on Exercise. He can be reached at dsloniegura@sprint.ca or at (514) 366-1206.*

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Practicality first: type in 'weather' on virtually any search engine and, with little work, you'll find current conditions and a lengthy forecast for your corner of the planet. Right now, it's 70 degrees Fahrenheit in my Manhattan stomping grounds. It's clear, the humidity is 67% and the wind is NW at 7 mph. In Calgary, it's 39 degrees, partly cloudy, the humidity is 60% and the wind is south at 8 mph. Time to pull out the woolies, kids! Weather is to midwest folks what a long index finger is to a model...

Some sophisticated on-line magazines have popped up recently and one of the best can be found at www.salon.com. To say this sharply-produced arts and entertainment journal has a liberal bent is like saying Pat Buchanan has right wing tendencies. In the issue I had the pleasure of perusing, the focus clearly centered on Chris Ofili's 'Catholic and ca-ca' show opening at the Brooklyn Museum of Art: "The only offensive dung in New York's controversial art exhibit is the mayor's bulls**t," screamed Daniel Kunitz's headline. Who peed on her truffles? Elsewhere, actress Piper Laurie remembered the "smoldering genius" of George C. Scott. Where she saw a "caring, warm, funny, and charming maverick" in the Patton Oscar winner, I saw a man in need of psychosis medication—but that's the beauty of subjectivity... and female hormones. That Piper, what a scamp.

Proving that male erotica doesn't always belong in a brown paper bag or, as I used to stash it, between the boxspring and mattress of my captain's bed, www.himself.com is a sometimes slinky, sometimes daring, and always eyebrow-raising celebration of the male form. This free site is available to anyone over twenty-one and typically features half a dozen or more artists displaying their work for your viewing and purchasing pleasure. My favorite discovery was the Tom of Finland-meets-Disney work of Rob Clarke. His funky "The Poodle Parlor" featured countless humpy hunks sporting pop-pom tails and floppy ears. Now there's something to bark about. "The Wild West" and the self-explanatory "Dutch Oven" moved even further into the realm of "what is this guy on?" Be forewarned: this site will do nothing to curb that nagging carpal tunnel syndrome.

## the webutante

by Darren McInnes

On the underside of the visual stimulation coin, www.glyphs.com/moba is home to the Boston "Museum of Bad Art," a virtual salute to crying clowns and dogs playing poker on black velvet. I was particularly fond of "Sunday on the Pot with George" and "Peter the Kitty." Now if only a website for bad musical theater would open up. Oh, what am I saying—there's not enough space on the world wide web for such a concept.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting and spending a weekend in the Catskills with the very charming Chris Cooper, a former Marvel Comics editor who recently co-founded Queer Nation, www.queernation.com, billed as "an utterly uncensored superheroic gay soap opera satire." After a mysterious comet passes by the Earth and bestows super hero powers on all gays (via the lambda rays emitting from the fairy dust of the comet's tail, natch), a right wing fanatic named Pat becomes president. Along with his thug gang of Patzis, he sets out to rid the world of pesky homosexuals. Battling this wife-beating hypocrite are the Fabulons, Angel, and a paraplegic Jewish astronomer called

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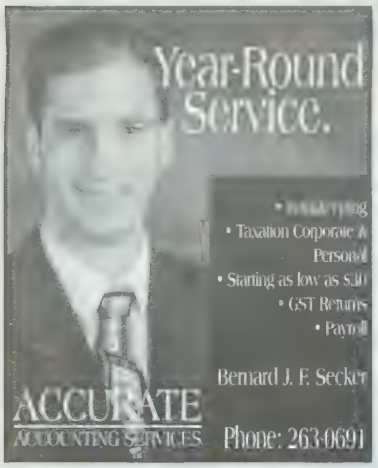
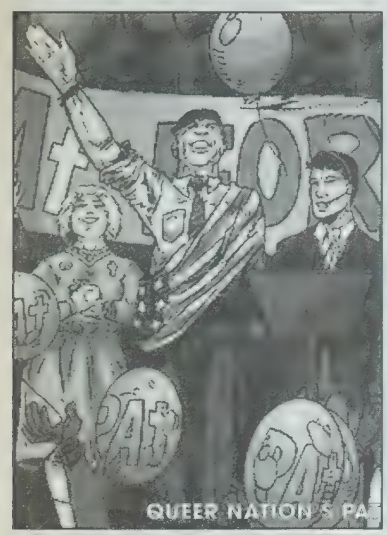


# REVIEWS

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Kalgon. My favorite character in the saga is "Lucifyr," an Adonis with lightning bolts and tight chinos who brands, boots, and occasionally beheads gay bashers. Then there's Hunk, the mild-mannered accountant who transforms into a Falcon centerfold every time he becomes aroused. It's the Chelsea Lou Ferrigno. Definitely the website of the month! As addictive as *Dynasty,* but much more fabulous.

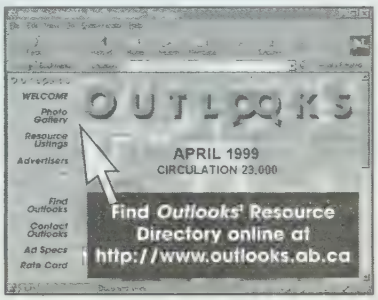
In my ongoing quest to give you nothing but the finest smut tips every month, I am pleased to bring you **www.willclarkusa.com**, where the "boy you wished lived next door" (as he bills himself) has built a porno site of which even Letitia Baldridge would approve. To classify this as smut, in fact, discredits an electronic home that continues the curious transformation of sleaze into mainstream pop culture. Read Clark's personal journal, where he explains his ongoing quest to cure his sleep apnea with *Woman's Home Journal* politeness. Of course, there's the usual flogging of videos, photos, and lubricant, but there's also Mickey Skee's Pornhole, editions of Porn Star Confidential, and Will Clark offering up a who's-who of his favorite tops, favorite bottoms, and favorite blowjobs. Thanks, sugar. There's something so freakish and yet so freakishly right about listening to this everyday hunk talking about hosting a fundraising bingo and rubbing shoulders with Jean Smart and Tippi Hedren. Only in L.A....

Apparently, being gay and looking for a mate isn't all about turning yourself into Latassaurus. Brains still count for something. If you subscribe to this increasingly extinct philosophy, add a bookmark to **www.eggheads.net** where you can read Michael Sexton's *Musings of an Erstwhile Drag Queen*: "I'm walking down the street, feeling the

voluptuous rub of pantyhose against my dress." Gosh, does that take me back to my childhood—I love you dad! As he goes on to reference Esther Newton and Susan Sontag, I would suggest that those who prefer knowing the dimensions of one's chest rather than one's IQ keep browsing.

NSITT (at **www.Noshit.com.au**) is an, er, *alternative* travel website brought to us by Peter Moore, an Australian travel writer with a quirky sense of humor and the macabre. Tacky postcard art, travel group therapy and bizarre packaging are all here, but my favorite corner is the "Cackwalk", where photos of people who really should know better don turbans, head-to-toe batik and ancient kimonos. It's almost as hideous as Carmen Electra's wardrobe. This site pokes fun at religious iconography, including a card that celebrates a visit by the Virgin Mary to a hillock in Bosnia's Medugorje in 1981. "The Virgin appeared to six young boys and from all accounts was quite the regular visitor until war broke out twelve years later. I guess she figured that with thousands of people being killed in a grubby little ethnic war, no one would believe her any more." Hmm, I'm not Catholic, but I'm guessing that comment *must* be worth a few Hail Marys, Mary.

May all your downloads be virus-free. Until next month, fellow webutantes!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## CALGARY
### Community Groups

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|---|---|
| AIDS Calgary | 2900 |
| Border Riders Motorcycle Club | 2088 |
| Buck Naked Boys Club | 2028 |
| Calgary Cycling Group | 4100 |
| Calgary Men's Chorus | 2043 |
| Camp 181 | 2001 |
| Different Strokes Swim Club | 2058 |
| Fairy Tales, Film Festival | 2054 |
| Fem to Fem Social Group (for women only) | 2050 |
| GLASS | 2222 |
| GLCSA | 2052 |
| I-Dentity | 2036 |
| Integrity | 2020 |
| Men's Domestic Conflict Help Line | 2030 |
| Men's Project | 2016 |
| Metropolitan Community Church | 2010 |
| Pride Calgary | 2850 |
| Real Me | 2056 |
| Rocky Mountain Cruisers Car Club | 2022 |
| SHARP Foundation | 2830 |
| Society Housing AIDS Restricted Persons | 2830 |
| Speak Sebastian | 2024 |
| Victorian Matriarchal Academy | 3210 |

## CALGARY
### Businesses

| | |
|---|---|
| 11 St Lodging | 2450 |
| Arena Coffee Shop | 2432 |
| Arena Nightclub | 2437 |
| Backlot | 2438 |
| Chickenhawks Bistro | 2424 |
| Detour | 2434 |
| Jane Oxenbury, M. Ed, Psych | 2820 |
| Jeffery's Boudoir Photography | 2500 |
| Labyrinth Lodge | 2060 |
| Loading Dock | 2436 |
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| Victoria's | 2430 |
| Westways | 2420 |

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## EDMONTON
### Community Groups

| | |
|---|---|
| Buck Naked Boys Club of Edmonton | 2040 |
| Dignity | 2012 |
| Equal Alberta | 2019 |
| Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evening | 2021 |
| GLCCE | 2860 |
| Kairos House | 2047 |
| LEGIT Edmonton | 2017 |
| Long Yang Club | 2025 |
| Men's Support Group | 2042 |
| Northern Titans Bowling | 2031 |
| Outreach (U of A) | 2029 |
| PFLAG | 2045 |
| Police Liaison Committee | 2038 |
| Prime Timers of Edmonton | 2044 |
| River Valley Cyclists | 2032 |
| The Curtain Rises | 2880 |
| Womonspace | 2041 |
| Youth Understanding Youth | 2023 |

## EDMONTON
### Businesses

| | |
|---|---|
| Cosmetics by Karen | 2525 |

## LETHBRIDGE
### Community Groups

| | |
|---|---|
| AIDS Connection Society | 2015 |
| GALA/LA | 2014 |

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- **Press 1 on your touch-tone phone at the main menu prompt.**
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# CLASSIFIEDS

## Index...


**100 - Employment**
office 101
domestic 102
trades 103
service industry 104
work wanted 105
help wanted 106

**200 - Real Estate**
homes and condos for sale 201
homes, apartments, and condos for rent 202
shared accommodations 203
accommodations 204
accommodations wanted 205
vacation rentals 206

**300 - For Sale**
automobiles 301
home furnishings 302
antiques and artworks 303
computers 304
general and miscellaneous 305
garage sales 306

**400 - Personals**
massage 401
friends 402
models & escorts 403
dating services 404
announcements 405
phone lines 406
general 407
health services 408

**500 - Announcements**
birthdays 501
anniversary 502
obituary 503
in memoriam 504
notices 505
general 507
lost & found 508

**600 - Travel**
accommodations 601
travel Alberta 602
travel BC 603
camping 604
travel international 605
general 606

**700- Business**
services 701
business opportunity 702


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A beautiful home with furnished rooms for rent incl. utilities & basic phone $400 to $435 monthly southeast N/S preferred transit nearby. 255-6202.

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A working male to share bi-level 3 bedroom washer/dryer, utilities included, $400 plus DD S.E. Calgary, call 569-6860.

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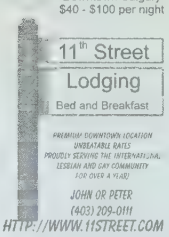
Two bedroom apartment in Kensington avail. Nov 1st, close to university, LRT, bike paths. Non-smoker, male preferred. $400/month, $400 DD. Call Ric after 6 pm 270-7238.

M/F to share 3 BDRM home in Braeside S.W. W/D, D/W, util. incl. $350/mo, $200 DD. Call 270-4057.

## 204 accommodations




## 206 vacation rentals

Cozy two-bedroom cottage, south-facing views of Browning Harbour. Easy walking to local shopping and pub. $425/week. E-mail: burdett@gulfislands.com Phone: (250)629-9922 www.gulfislands.com/razorpoint

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Heaven on earth in this 2 bed, 2 bath condo, gorgeous view, short walk to snorkling beach, 2 pools, tennis court, fully equipped kitchen, 10 min. to Cabo night life. Car available, call Heather 253-2018, In Cabo call Jan 011-52-114-75580. You will love it!

## 305 general sales

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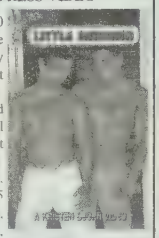
Over 1,000 gay male movies to buy or rent! Hot new releases hard to find classics; mail order too! Visit or write to Express Video, #202, 11745 Jasper Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T5K0N5. Ph:780-482-7480.



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## 402 friends

GWM, 30, 6 ft., 175--I've got a real thing for guys in wire-rimmed glasses. Seeking hot encounters with fun-loving nebbish types 18-35. Longer hair a plus. Reply #1240

Good looking 35 yr old HIV+ male looking for a 25 to 40 yr old male to share life with. You must be outgoing, understanding, caring and very affectionate. I am very healthy and just want to be happy. Take a chance. I don't think you will be disappointed. Reply #1262

GWM 26, N/S, 145 lbs, good looking, hoping to meet decent guy to share my life with. I don't believe all the respectable guys are taken. Do you? Reply #1263.

## PEN PALS WANTED

I am a 32-year-old Russian who wishes to find new friends in Canada. My name is Andrew. I am a professional from Siberia now residing in Moscow. I'm 178 cm tall, 68 kilo, light blond hair, blue eyes. If somebody wants to write me by e-mail: Hogan.Malony@mail.USA.com and the ordinary address is Andrew, P.O. Box 7678, Krasnoyarsk, 660092 Russia.

Young, honest, handsome gay 19/178/65, would like to break solitude with your help. I need strong and sincere friendship. Let's plan our future together. I am waiting for your letters in English to: Alexandr Scherbec, P.O. Box 852, Kharkov-2, 310002, Ukraine

RUSSIAN boy from Ukraine, 22 y.o., 176 cm, 70 kg, very handsome, athletic, smooth, masculine, would like to meet an honest, sincere man for the real friendship and love. My address is: Vadim Ivanov, P.O. Box 8362, Kharkov-105, 310105, Ukraine

Brazilian HIV- GWM w/Mediterranean look, 37-180-94, out of drugs & non-smoking, abstentious, very romantic, w/tender soul & non-effeminate. Slightly possessive, stubborn, honest, reliable, frank & sincere, routine-minded, disciplined, widely-traveled, polyglot, graduate. Marcelo Reis, Poste Restante, 20001-970 Rio, Brazil.

Handsome, honest gay professional model, 25/183/72 would like to find good friends for friendship, maybe more. I hope you will break my solitude. Please write me in English to: Taitov Radion, Do Vostrebovania, Kharkhov-118, 310118, Ukraine

Boy from Ukraine, 20 y.o., very handsome, masculine, athletic, smooth, would like to meet a sincere and honest man for the real friendship. Please write to: Anatoliy Borovoy, P.O. Box 1832, Kharkiv-24, 310024, Ukraine

Russian athletic soldier, 20yo/190 cm/88 kg, champion of Ukraine in swimming, very handsome, muscular and active, would like to meet sincere, romantic, warm-hearted, lonely friend for long-term relationship based on love, passion and faithfulness and for the common future in happiness and concord. Please answer me in English. Photo will be very appreciated. Please enclose international postage stamp--if possible, because my army service is free of charge. Ivan Karimov, PO Box 8782, Kharkov-2, 310002, Ukraine.

Affectionate GWM, 38, professional, articulate, compact, bearish type seeks relationship oriented companionship with grounded masculine non-smoking adventurer 28-48 with wit and facial hair. Reply #1264

## OUTLOOKS CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

**CURRENT DEADLINE: November 26, 1999**

Complete this form and mail or fax it to Outlooks at the address on Page 3. As we accept on our website at no extra cost. Please do not mail cash.

Please place my ad in Category #
Please add the following headline to my ad ($10.00 extra):

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:
PROVINCE/STATE:
CODE:
DAY PHONE: ( )
HOME PHONE: ( )

ALL PHONE NUMBERS APPEARING IN ADS MUST BE VERIFIED
SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD PURCHASE

PAYMENT OPTIONS: (circle one)
**CASH - CHEQUE - MONEY ORDER**
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CARD NUMBER:
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**ADDITIONAL 25 WORDS (10.00 CHARGE)**

**INVOICE PLEASE COMPLETE FULLY**

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|---|---|---|
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| **Entire ad in Bold:** | $10.00 | |
| **Headline:** | $10.00 | |
| **Photograph** *(1"x1" B&W)*: | $15.00 | |
| **Border Around Ad:** | $15.00 | |
| **Reply Number Forwarding:** | $5.00 | |
| **SUBTOTAL per month:** | | |
| **FREQUENCY:** | | |
| 3 issues: SUBTRACT 10% | | |
| 6 issues: SUBTRACT 15% | | |
| 12 issues: SUBTRACT 20% | | |
| ADD 7% GST: | | |
| **GRAND TOTAL:** | | |

# CLASSIFIEDS

## 403 models & escorts

**KURT**

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Make me part of your travel itinerary!

**BONDAGE MODELS** wanted for new members-only fantasy fiction website. Payment is on a sliding scale. 18-28, slim to muscular preferred. Send recent photo and contact information to Reply #1265.

## 404 dating services

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Instant live phone conversations with hot Calgary gay men. All live, all the time. For your free membership, call 777-9481.

**BI-CURIOUS?** Meet others *discreetly* on The Confidential Connection@! 403-216-7777 code: 3503

HOT ONLINE ENTERTAINMENT

GaySex2000.com MarineStuds.com GaySexLive.com Gay-Chat.com StudMail.com GayKiss.com VoyeurCamLive.com UncutStuds.com BlackStud.com MaleCards.com GayPornoChannel.com

**www.squirt.org** Alberta's Neighbourhood Sex Guide
**www.squirtpersonals.com** Personal ads for Alberta guys looking for sex.

## 407 general

**Intimacy Abuse Survivors:** Gay male survivors of abusive same-sex relationships, who are interested in participating in a graduate research project, can call Craig at (780) 488-4958 or email: gnauckc@admin.gmcc.ab.ca

## 602 travel Alberta

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228 1157

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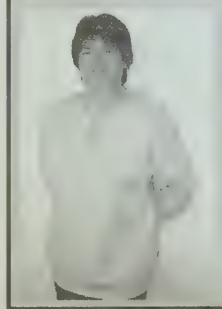

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VANCOUVER
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## 603 travel BC

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## 702 business opportunity

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## EVENT LISTINGS

**CALGARY**

Next ARGRA dances: **Note: New Date, November 20**, December 11 at Victoria Park Community Centre. Visit www.canuck.com/~argra or call (403) 541-8140 for more information

Calgary Life Enrichment Centre: Free lectures every Sunday at the Palliser Hotel. Subject include coping & life skills, stress and anger management, meditation and more 278-1217

Improvisation classes with world renowned author/teacher Keith Johnstone. November 5 - 7, 1999 This 14 hour workshop is intended for anyone interested in being spontaneous, interactive and having fun. For more information call 246-5496

AIDS Awareness Week November 22-29. World AIDS Day December 1. AIDS Calgary Open House November 8

Toller Cranston in attendance at Art Mode November 4th and 5th

Interdisciplinary performance. Taste This Too Close To Fire at Crump Manor. 266-1508 for information

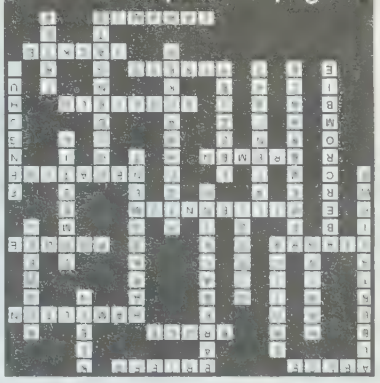
Bearback Calgary meeting Thursday. November 18th at Money-Pennies

**EDMONTON**

Leather/Bear Weekend. November 19-20. Email bears@freenet.edmonton ab.ca for more details

Choices Nightclub: Mel's Party Night Mondays, Drag Night Tuesdays, Amateur Strip Wednesdays, Womyn's Night Thursdays, Party Night Fridays. 10145 105 St., (780) 425-4591. www.choicesclub.com

**Queerword Answers**
...puzzle on page 31



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**LATE NIGHT PORN**
*From:* **Studio Entertainment**
*Featuring:* **Grant Wood, Logan Reed, Ethan Marc, Peter Wilder, Zach Richards, K.C. Hart, Damien Ford, Josh Evers, Cody Tyler, Michael Brandon, Joey James, Scott Mann, Frank Taylor, Chris Young**
*Running Time:* **110 minutes**

It isn't Jay Leno or David Letterman, but it might be considered Politically Incorrect by some viewers, *Late Night Porn* is a glimpse of what might happen if there was ever a specialty television channel called GAY-TV. Porn star Grant Wood is the host of his own late night television show and he's out to prove that he's the host with the most and his audience is there to judge his talents and those of his numerous guests from the world of gay porn.

This quickly proves to be a talk show with a difference, as the banter between hosts and guests is kept to a minimum in order to maximize on go-go dancers, video clips from the latest porn movies, music videos from strippers' latest releases and everything you would *not* expect on our current late night television programming. Rather than idle studio chatter with guests, the show is full of hot sights as the guests show their talents in action. After all, you'd much rather see a porn star perform than listen to them talk! Grant proves that his choice of guests is superb, and when it's a matter of size, he's the expert judge and the perfect host. His manager assures him that his talent will take him from the bottom to the top and keep him there for a long time. Grant protests and is determined, after making his next porn movie, that he's going to retire from the business while he's on top.

As the movie takes us through Grant's life, we see the kind of parties a porn star attends and glimpse some vignettes of life on a porn movie set. At the same time we learn the difficulties of finding a boyfriend when sex is your career choice. The glare of fame makes a private life impossible for Grant until he's confronted by his ultimate fantasy and a career choice becomes a must. His finalé will bring the house down—but one has to believe there will be a sequel; it's just too good to end now as Grant's life takes a turn for the best.

***Review sponsored by Express Video, #202 11745 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, (780) 482-7480. Email: exec.express@v-wave.com***

**RATING:** OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS
MUSIC: ★★★★ SET: ★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★ STORY: ★★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

**RED ALERT**
*From:* **Falcon**
*Featuring:* **Michel Lucas, Brennan Foster, Christopher Scott, Tristan Paris, Marc Stewart, Kurt Stefano, Marcelo Reeves, Nick Ford**
*Running Time:* **80 minutes**

When Michel arrives by boat in San Francisco, his first sight of the Golden Gate Bridge helps to erase his communist memories of repression and the prospect of his new life fills him with anticipation of the good times to come. When he passes Alcatraz, thoughts of the prisoners once held there fill his head, then return to his newfound freedom and the possibilities waiting for him in the city of free love.

As he wanders around looking for an apartment, it becomes clear that this tall, dark, handsome Russian's stunning good looks make quite an impact on the locals. He's turning heads everywhere and his new American neighbours need to have a second or third look at the hot newcomer.

Inevitably, he encounters a local stud, Kurt Stefano, who wants to show him more of the "friendly" life in San Francisco. Michel does some fancy footwork and shows this American some big secrets from behind the Iron Curtain. At the same time, he realizes that his good looks and size are going to be more important in his new life than his ability to speak English. His new encounter, Kurt, welcomes him to San Francisco with much more than just advice on how to find a job and an apartment. Michel takes it all in his stride and is grateful for everything he gets from the stranger. At the same time he tries to give his biggest and best gift in return for Kurt's assistance.

When he checks out the apartment for rent, Michel discovers there are some strings attached and decides that he's not quite ready for a threesome. He proceeds to see if a job offer is a little more appealing to him, and once again, he finds a threesome is essential to gain employment. By now Michel assumes this is the way in San Francisco and his participation shows only slight hesitance. Assuming the employer is impressed by his credentials, Michel returns to see if the apartment is still available. Once again, he makes a great impression, this time his two new landlords introduce him to the American Way.

***Review sponsored by Rainbow Pride Resource Centre, L100 822 11th Avenue SW, Calgary, 266-5685***

**RATING:** OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS
MUSIC: ★★★ SET: ★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★ STORY: ★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★

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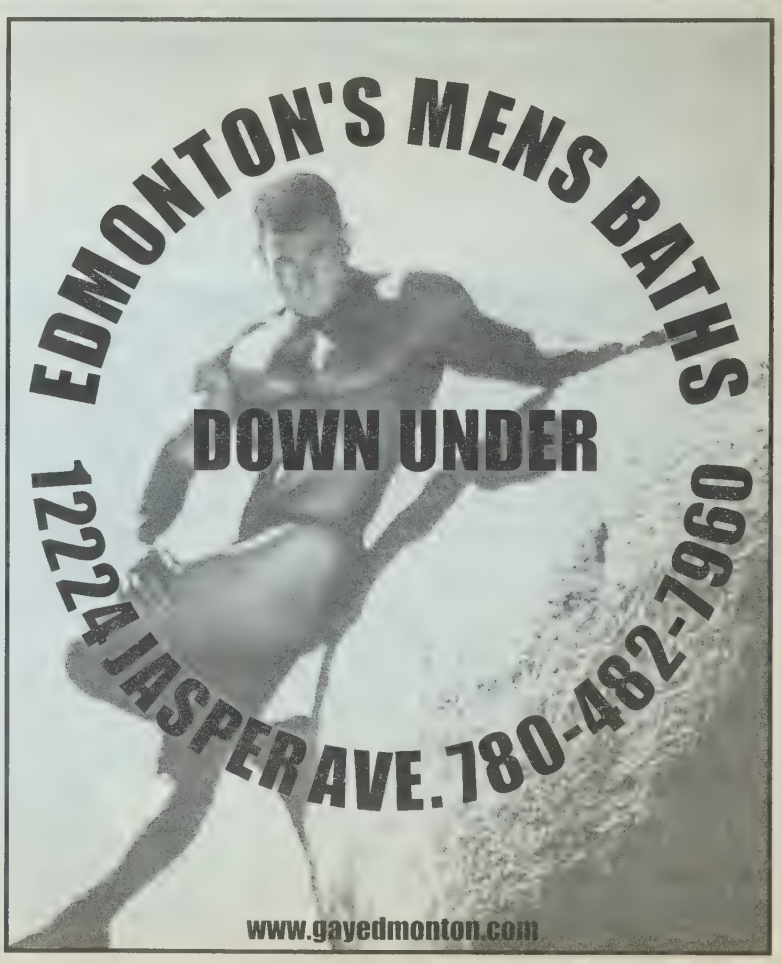

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Calgary: With the Times (2 locations)
2212A - 4th Street SW & 118 10th Street NW
10:00 am - 11:00 pm, 7 days a week

Calgary: Rainbow Pride Resource Centre
L100 - 822 11th Ave SW
Noon - 10:00 pm, 7 days a week

Edmonton: Down Under
12224 Jasper Ave
Open 24 hrs/day
...or visit any Western Union outlet!

## JUST FRIENDS

Box 2108: Good-looking, early 20's guy looking for same who is masculine, straight acting and works out. Looking for friendship, possibly more.

Box 2202: I'm 21, risk-taker, leader, student at University of Calgary, among another things. I throw myself into life and am looking for someone who is really passionate, high-energy, positive life-affirming friend who I can hang and have some fun with. Some of my interests are music, working out daily, personal development, reading, personal growth and spirituality.

Box 2223: I'm 22, brown hair and eyes, 160lb, 6'1", told I'm good-looking. Looking for someone to get-together with for good times. I'm into ski-blading this winter and I'm starting to work out.

## LONG TERM RELATIONSHIPS

Box 2098: Patrick 20, 6', 190lb, Black male. I love to go out for fun times. I'm a casual drinker and smoker. Looking for a mature male, 21-25, for a long term relationship. You are good-looking, tall and have a decent body. Peace out, one love.

Box 2268: If you are looking for quick sex, this ad is not for you. If not, read on. Professional white male, 35, educated - university and college - have a great job and would like to spend some time getting to know you. I'd love to share some fun times going to the show or a walk, all those nice things. I don't go the gym everyday but I'm in pretty good shape.

Box 2164: Tall, dark-haired, dark eyed, handsome, professional guy. Looking for another professional guy, 25-35, hopefully tall, good-looking and handsome is a definite plus. You're looking for someone to hang out and have fun with.

Box 2168: Looking for a little brother who is in his 20's, slim, smooth and cute. I'm 6'2", 180lb, brown hair, blue eyes, straight looking and acting, masculine. Into many activities. I am a race car mechanic/driver and definitely an outdoors type of guy. You like your big brother to make you feel protected, wanted and loved. As my little brother, I'd make you feel special.

Box 2178: New to the system, looking for a long term relationship. 5'8", 120lb. I love movies, videos, theatre and going for long walks in the park, basically the simple things in life.

Box 2271: Good-looking, straight acting and looking, 6', 200lb, good shape. I go to the gym and keep fairly active. Just turned 33, looking for a guy 28-35, who is straight acting and looking, with similar interests. I love anything from golf, hockey to dinner theatre. I'm pretty open-minded about trying new things, old things, whatever. Easy-going, look for the positive in negative situations. Have I picqued your interest?

## CASUAL ENCOUNTERS

Box 2077: I've got a fantasy that I've had for a long time and I'm ready to have it fulfilled. I've always wanted to come into a professional man's downtown office, sit back in his chair and calm him down on my knees. I'd pull his top right out of his pants to service him. No strings attached. I just want to fulfill you in your office and you'd just be fulfilling my fantasy. Anytime.

Box 2083: John, 28, 5'11", brown hair, blue eyes, 8" uncut cock, hairy body, 210lb and I'm a muscle man, not fat. I'm into really hot action. Looking for a guy or guys for possible group action. I love to suck, to take it, be on top or on the bottom. I'm into absolutely anything. C'mon guys, I really, really need you.

Box 2087: Very horny male, 38, 5'8", 170lb, 7 1/2" uncut cock, shaved balls and ass, brown hair, mustache, brown eyes, not bad-looking. Looking for someone who likes to service. I'd love to lay back and have you service my cock.

Box 2109: Early 20's, good-looking, masculine. Looking for another guy who works out, in his early 20's, for friendship and maybe more.

Box 2128: 32, 5'6", bi male, blonde hair, brown eyes, 6" cut. Looking for casual encounters, maybe more. You are 18-35. Let's get together for fun, safe sex.

Box 2148: Like everyone else, what I want is to have some fun and some casual encounters. I must have a great hot time with another guy. I'm very oral, versatile and basically willing to get down to have a good time. I am in my 30's, brown hair, hazel eyes, 6" cut dick, 5'8", 178lb, outgoing. Fun is what I'm looking for. Let's start out, perhaps continue on a regular basis or just leave it as a one time thing.

Box 2152: I'm 6'4", 235lb, clean cut, clean-shaven, straight acting and appearing, masculine, late 40's guy. I'm into giving pleasure to younger guys, under 25. I've got my own downtown place and I love to entertain. Let's have some fun.

Box 2159: Out in Airdrie. Love outdoor sex, group sex and sex in public places. I like my guys in jockstraps, next to leather. 30 something, 5'10", 160lb, nice thick 8" cut cock. Looking for other guys who want to share their nice big meat. I'll share mine with you. You must be able to travel or entertain.

Box 2181: I'm 27, considered attractive, 5'10", 160lb, blonde hair, blue eyes, clean-shaven, smooth body, swimmer's build. Looking to meet a guy, to fool around and have casual sex with. You know, cum and leave. You are well-endowed. I love sucking. Let's go out.

Box 2189: Michael, 21. I'm an attached hot male. Looking for a top or bottom. Fuck, suck and lick me. I like cuddling too. I love you.

Box 2200: I'm 52, wishing to meet guys who are my own age for mutual stroking and sucking.

Box 2226: This attractive, 38, top, looking for someone slim to muscular to be a bottom. I would prefer someone who is able to travel or who can entertain sometimes. You must like oral and like to explore with their mouth and tongue also fairly young. I don't want people to apply to this ad who are overweight or just not attractive.

Box 2253: I'm new to Calgary and looking to meet new friends. I'm 5'10", 155lb, clean-shaven, clean-cut, great shape and a top. I'm looking to meet other in-shape people for something casual or if it leads to something more - that's perfect.

Box 2256: Versatile, 5'9", 150lb, 7 1/2" cut, blond, blue eyed, would like to meet up with some bi people. Discretion, safety and I like to have a good time.

Box 2261: I'm 6'1", 160lb, good-looking white male, looking for other good-looking males for good time. I'm 22, going to Europe for the month of November for a modeling gig and would like to meet some hot guys before and after.

## BEARS, BIG MEN & THEIR ADMIRERS

Box 2204: I'm 30, white male, 5'11", 150lb, 29" waist, long legs, very round tight ass, short hair, very little body hair, smoker and social drinker. I'm looking for an older man, at least 40, at least 6', around 150lb or more, someone that takes care of themselves, dominant and with a take-charge kind of attitude. I'm straight acting and looking, very submissive and feminine in the bedroom. I'm not into cuddling but into very physical, kinky hard core action. I'm looking for a daddy type who likes to have his way with boy toys. I can entertain for the right man.

Box 2258: I'm attractive, top male, looking for attractive, slender, young guys out there in this category. I'm 5'8", short brown hair, moderately hairy, 7 1/2" cut, 180lb.

## TRANSGENDER

Box 2176: I'm 40, married, white male, considered good-looking, 6'1", 220lb, very muscular, very strong, moustache, graying hair, 7 1/2" fairly thick, nice big purple head and would like to get together with transsexuals for some hot times.

Box 2237: I'm Rick, looking for a transsexual or transvestite who is passable and I'm looking to be serviced orally. I'm straight, 5'10", 175lb, blue eyes, dark hair, clean cut, well-endowed, 7 1/2", shoot quite a bucket.

Box 2259: I'm Lisa, very sexy attractive transvestite, 5'8", 140lb, smooth body, long black hair, beautiful eyes, into exotic clothing, high boots and I'm looking for an open-minded male for discreet, intimate encounters.

## BISEXUALS

Box 2110: I'm 22, looking for other good-looking guys. I'm 5'10, 160lb, looking for friendship and more.

Box 2113: I'm Kelly, 5'8", 150lb, slim, smooth body, have a very submissive, feminine side to me that I can't help but to explore. I'm looking for a serious, ongoing, fun, relationship. I am attached, so no head games, looking for a gentleman or couple who will teach me the pleasures of being with a man, train me, dress me up from time to time, lots of kink, love lingerie, maybe forced feminization, toys, videos.

Box 2161: Married, 38, bicurious, looking for second experience with a bi male and a female who would like to watch or participate or possibly a group scene. I'm clean, discreet, open-minded, looking for the same.

Box 2193: I'm 31, 6'1", 195lb-200lb, really easy-going, easy to get along with, down-to-earth, looking for a married man who would like a bit of fun even if the wife wants to get involved.

Box 2257: I'm a married white male, brown hair, hazel eyes, 5'10", 190lb, muscular, considered very attractive, light moustache and beard. I'm looking for other bisexual males or couples, singles, threeways and maybe even fourways.

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NOVEMBER

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| THIS MONTH NO COVER. PERIOD. | 1 MEL'S PARTY NIGHT $2.25 HIGHBALL SPECIALS | 2 DRAG NIGHT 75¢ HIGHBALL NIGHT | 3 AMATEUR STRIP DJ ALVARO | 4 WOMYN'S NIGHT 75¢ HIGHBALLS DJ MIKEY SHOOTER SPECLS | 5 LIVIN' LA VIDA LOCA NIGHT CORONA SPECIALS | 6 MALE & FEMALE STRIPPER DRINK SPECIAL |
| 7 (CLOSED) | 8 MEL'S PARTY NIGHT $2.25 HIGHBALL SPECIALS | 9 DRAG NIGHT 75¢ HIGHBALL NIGHT | 10 AMATEUR STRIP DJ ALVARO | 11 WOMYN'S NIGHT DRINK SPECIALS DJ MIKEY | 12 WE ARE CANADIAN NIGHT - BEER SPECIALS | 13 MALE & FEMALE STRIPPER DRINK SPECIAL |
| 14 (CLOSED) | 15 MEL'S PARTY NIGHT $2.25 HIGHBALL SPECIALS | 16 DRAG NIGHT 75¢ HIGHBALL NIGHT | 17 AMATEUR STRIP CASH PRIZES | 18 WOMYN'S NIGHT DJ MIKEY 75¢ HIGHBALLS | 19 CUM AS YOU ARE DRINK SPECIALS | 20 MALE & FEMALE STRIPPER DRINK SPECIAL |
| 21 (CLOSED) | 22 MEL'S PARTY NIGHT $2.25 HIGHBALL SPECIALS | 23 DRAG NIGHT 75¢ HIGHBALL NIGHT | 24 BEER BASH $6 PITCHERS $1.50 GLASS AMATEUR STRIP | 25 WOMYN'S NIGHT DJ MIKEY 75¢ HIGHBALLS | 26 SHIRTLESS FRIDAY DRINK SPECIALS | 27 MALE & FEMALE STRIPPER DRINK SPECIAL |
| 28 (CLOSED) | 29 MEL'S PARTY NIGHT $2.25 HIGHBALL SPECIALS | 30 DRAG NIGHT 75¢ HIGHBALL NIGHT | | | | |

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